

Hafa Adai!

Majority of recent police cars bought using federal money. **PAGE 5**
CUC introduces typhoon preparedness plan. **PAGE 6**

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Senate unanimously passes own version of budget bill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

With the backing of their legal counsel's opinion stating, among other things, that it is only the governor who has the authority to allocate or expend the American Rescue Plan Act funds, the Senate Friday unanimously passed their version of a budget bill for the government's operations for Fiscal Year 2023.

Good turnout on first day of NI early voting

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first day of early voting for the Northern Islands on Friday at the Commonwealth Elec-

tion Commission's conference room in Susupe went smoothly.

CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol said Friday that the early voting was going

See **GOOD** on **Page 4**



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Northern Islands mayoral candidate Valentino Nicky Taisacan avails of the early voting on Friday for the Northern Islands at the Commonwealth Election Commission conference room in Susupe, which is the designated polling site for Northern Islands early voting. Many already voted Friday, the first day of the early voting for the Northern Islands.

- » **Senate counsel says only governor has authority to allocate, expend ARPA money**
- » **Counsel describes House action on incorporating taxes in budget bill as 'glaring, ignorant'**



Bermudes

With all eight senators present voting "yes" during a session held at the Tinian courthouse, the Senate passed House of Representatives Bill 22-116, HD2, in the

form of Senate substitute 1.

It was only Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) who was absent from the session. Sens. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-

See **SENATE** on **Page 4**

EDUCATION SUMMIT Leaders bare state of education in CNMI



LEIGH GASES

From left, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, NMTECH CEO Jodina Attao, and NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero stand in front of the crowd prior to the start of the Educational Summit at the Royal Taga Ballroom of Saipan World Resort last Thursday.

By **LEIGH GASES**
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CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the three largest educational institutions in the CNMI—the CNMI Public School System, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, and the Northern Marianas College—

See **LEADERS** on **Page 4**

Over 1,000 PUA applicants left to be adjudicated

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of La-

bor reports that roughly over 1,000 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment

Compensation benefits still await adjudication.

In an interview with Labor Secretary Vicky Bena-

vente last week, over 1,000 clients are still waiting for their PUA applications to be

See **OVER** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

The MVA has announced the judging criteria for the Chamorro and Carolinian cultural attire contest.

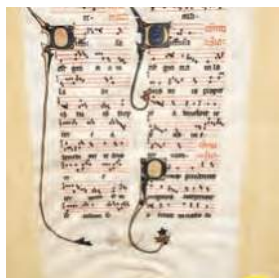
PAGE 2



NATION

A state of emergency for all of Florida was declared on Saturday as Tropical Storm Ian gained strength over the Caribbean.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

A bargain hunter who went to an estate sale in Maine to find a KitchenAid mixer, a bookshelf or vintage clothing walked away with a 700-year-old treasure.

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Local

DPS CHIEF SAYS:

Majority of recent police cars bought using federal money

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety

Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero said over the weekend that a majority of the recent purchases of vehicles

for DPS were made possible through federal funds and grants, for specific purposes. "Investing in the safety

of our public is a priority, and when we have funding available to expand our resources to keep our public safe, we will do it," said Guerrero in an email in response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for comments about Rep. Edwin K. Propst's (D-Saipan) accusation against the administration.

Propst recently accused the Torres administration of lavish spending, including buying new cars for everybody at DPS in what he described as "too many that he can't count all of them."

But Guerrero said the increase in their fleet not only means more officers are available to respond to pub-

lic emergencies, accidents, or concerns in a more timely manner, but it also means a safer community with officers able to deter crimes and provide assistance while patrolling villages.

The commissioner did not indicate how many new cars DPS had recently purchased.

Criteria set for World Tourism Day cultural attire contest

The Marianas Visitors Authority has announced the judging criteria for the Chamorro and Carolinian cultural attire contest that will be held on Sept. 27, 2022, during the World Tourism Day Sunset Walkathons on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Participants will be judged based on authenticity, presentation, effort, and detail. On each island, cash prizes for best Chamorro and Carolinian cultural attire will be awarded: \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place, \$100 for third place, \$75 for fourth place, and \$50 for fifth place.

Walks begin at 6pm and registration is free and opens at 5pm. The free T-shirts will be distributed while supplies last. Registration forms are

downloadable on The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

Saipan's walk will begin at the Mina'chom Atdao Pavilion at Kili Beach Park in Susupe, continue along Saipan Beach Pathway to Quartermaster Road and back. On Tinian, the walk will begin at Taga Beach, proceed along Broadway to the MVA office, and return to Taga Beach. On Rota, the walk will begin at East Harbor, proceed to Kokomo, and return to East Harbor.

"We cordially invite the Marianas community to join the global travel and tourism community in celebrating the United Nations World Tourism Day on Tuesday," said MVA Community projects manager Martin Duenas. "On

Sept. 27 and every day in The Marianas, tourism is everybody's business."

Businesses and other groups are invited to participate in island beautification cleanups on Saipan at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan from 8:30am to 10:30am, on Tinian at Tinian Swimming Hole in the west side of Tinian at 8:30am. The MVA will also provide trash bags, gloves, and water.

In collaboration with the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History & Culture, CNMI Museum Day will highlight the importance of promoting history for tourism by offering free tours at the museum. High school Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically (MY WAVE) clubs will be



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sixty-five participants join the World Tourism Day Sunset Run Fun in Saipan on Sept. 27, 2021. World Tourism Day will be observed on Sept. 27, 2022, with activities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

hosted from 8am to 12pm. Students will also have the opportunity to join Color Nights painting session with local instructor Linda Torres.

For more information on World Tourism Day activities on Saipan, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or 1.670.664.3210. On Tinian, contact MVA Field Operations supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com or 1.670.433.9365. On Rota, contact MVA Field Operations supervisor David Atalig at datalig@mymarianas.com or 1.670.532.0327.

The official World Tourism Day celebration will be held in Bali, Indonesia, highlighting the shift towards tourism being recognized as a crucial pillar of development. (PR)



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October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October marks the celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month with this year's nation-wide theme "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation" coined by the United States Department of Labor.

Disability Network Partners recognizes the important role people with disabilities have within a diverse and inclusive workforce as we take another step closer towards being a fully integrated society.

It also recognizes employers who have showcased supportive, inclusive employment practices and policies as they break the barriers of stigma

and discrimination.

These barriers cannot be broken alone, but rather, it is a team effort between diverse agencies with a common goal of providing employment services for individuals with disabilities.

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. can provide education and training for employers regarding enabling disability laws, employee rights, reasonable accommodations, disability etiquette and awareness, just to name a few.

In collaboration with the CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, NMPASI provides

these trainings to employers who are interested in providing on the job and work experience training for VR clients. Working together for a common goal of ensuring that the rights of individuals with disabilities are protected and that the employers are aware of these laws allow for meaningful collaboration for the individuals seeking employment.

The Disability Network Partners is an organization of various agencies that seek to provide services for individuals with disabilities through the CNMI. NMPASI is a member of the DNP, and together they're celebrating this year's

NDEAM by hosting a series of conferences on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota aiming our employers, self-advocates, and beneficiaries of social security who are looking to gain or maintain employment. The important dates are as follows:

SAIPAN

■ Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022: NDEAM Proclamation Signing, Employer Recognition Ceremony, Employer Training at Taga Hall, World Resort, beginning at 8am.

■ Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022: Self-Advocates' Training at Taga Hall, World Resort, beginning at 8am.

■ Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022: Beneficiaries of Social Security Training at Taga Hall, World Resort, beginning at 8am.

TINIAN

■ Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022: NDEAM Proclamation Signing, Employer Recognition Ceremony, Employer Training at Bar-K Diner, Tinian, beginning at 8am.

■ Friday, Oct. 14, 2022: Self-Advocates' Training at Bar-K Diner, Tinian, beginning at 8am.

■ Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022: Beneficiaries of Social Security Training at Bar-K Diner, Tinian, beginning at 8am.

ROTA

■ Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022: NDEAM Proclamation Signing, Employer Recognition Ceremony, Employer Training at Chesa, Rota, beginning at 8am.

■ Friday, Oct. 21, 2022: Self-

Advocates' Training at Chesa, Rota, beginning at 8am.

■ Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022: Beneficiaries of Social Security Training @ Chesa, Rota, beginning at 8am.

For more information regarding these upcoming NDEAM celebrations and events, please contact OVR at (670) 322-6535/38 or NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/74. (Cleo Nening)

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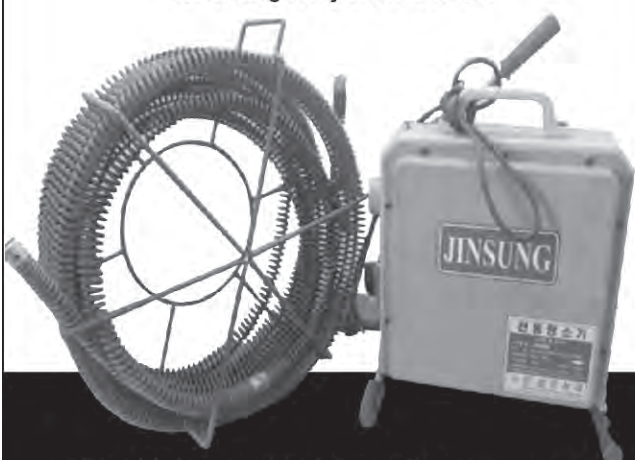
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SENATE

From Page 1

Rota) and Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), who appeared at the session through Zoom, voted “yes” for the passage of the Senate’s substitute budget bill.

The Senate’s version of the budget now goes back to the House for action.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has until Oct. 1, 2022 to enact a new budget bill into law or risk a potential shutdown of government operations during an election year.

Last Aug. 27, the House passed budget bill 22-116 in the form of HD2, to appropriate \$109.7 million out of \$150.4 million in total budgetary resources, and \$52.6 million from the American Rescue Plan Act funds, for CNMI government operations in Fiscal Year 2023.

During Friday’s discussions of the budget bill, Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), who offered the substitute bill, said instead of taking the 80% of the local available resources, the House made an amendment to do a reversal.

Hocog said the House took the ARPA money to fund the salaries of fulltime employees at 80% and use the local available funds to fund the remaining 20%.

He said the committee members are very concerned by the House’s action.

Hocog said the committee also found out that the available submis-

sion for legislative action from ARPA provided only \$32 million to support the 80% from the general fund.

He said the action that the House did by using the 20% of the local funds to fund other departments locally and using ARPA 80% does not hold any continuing employment to all the government employees that are being paid today under Fiscal Year 2022 under the local funds.

“And that uncertainty really puts all government employees in jeopardy in the following fiscal year,” he said.

Hocog said Torres already came out in his press release, advising all the retirees that they will be guaranteed payment for the first quarter, but yet the House submitted \$13 million in their version to fund the 25% pension benefits and not considering the commitment that the governor has put out already to pay the retirees 25% for the first quarter.

During discussions, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) enumerated further some of the “products” that they received from the House’s budget bill version.

Hofschneider said according to the information and the guidance from the Legislature’s fiscal analyst, the House budget bill version completely defunded the Marianas Visitors Authority for the entire fiscal year.

He said the amount of public agency employees that stand to potentially lose employment, amounts up to almost \$20 million.

“That’s \$20 million that can potentially be spread in the community by way of employment of some of these

employees,” the Senate president said.

Hofschneider said he appreciates the diligence of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee and the guidance by their legal counsel and fiscal analyst, and agencies that have guided the committee to figure out a way and mechanism to reverse many actions done on the House budget bill version.

“I couldn’t help but to point out the timeframe that the Senate was given to work on this [budget bill],” he said.

The Senate president noted that the House received the governor’s proposed budget submission last April 1 and that there were subsequent minor amendments to the revenue projection.

He said the House never acted on a product until Aug. 27, or merely 30 days for the Senate to look into what was done.

“If my recollection serves me right, it’s supposed to be before the governor’s desk already so they can start reviewing the actions of the budget. But that’s all out the window right now obviously,” Hofschneider said.

He said they can only hope that the Senate product that they are about to dispose of is understood.

In response to Sen. Santos’ questions before the voting, Senate legal counsel Joe Bermudes said it appeared to him that the House relied on this provision, 1 CMC 7204 in the Planning and Budget Act, to support their position that they can add two riders on the budget bill.

Bermudes said the House mem-

bers tried to fit that provision to their argument that ARPA is additional revenue.

He said the House members are taking in their context that this provision is a statutory provision that refers to Commonwealth revenues and nothing else.

Bermudes said the House members completely ignored the constitutional provision under NMI Constitution under Article 2 Section 5, which is the one subject rule “because maybe, perhaps, this provision cannot be reviewed by the judicial branch.”

He said moreover, the most glaring, ignorant action by the House is based on Article 3, Section 9 (a) provision that mandates the governor to submit a balanced budget.

Bermudes said in that provision, it allows the governor to recommend and include legislation with respect to legislation for taxation.

“What they didn’t look at is the analysis. If you just read that, they

tried to fit it into a statutory provision,” he pointed out.

Bermudes said the constitution provides that the budget plan submitted by the governor may include legislation with respect to taxation.

He said the constitution, however, states that revenue bills are passed separately from the budget for the Commonwealth.

Bermudes said to anybody that reads that, it only means one thing: that the House cannot make the sugar tax and tobacco tax—a rider in the budget bill.

Rep. Leila Haveia Fleming C. Staffler (D-Saipan) acknowledged during a recent press conference that incorporating taxes provision in a budget bill has not been done before in the CNMI, but that it does not mean it’s unconstitutional or illegal.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

GOOD

From Page 1

really smoothly and that the turnout was good.

Igitol said that as of 2:30pm that day, 73 had already voted.

There are only 184 registered voters for the Northern Islands. Most of them are staying on Saipan.

Northern Islands mayoral candidates Jocelyn Frances Aldan Kapileo and Valentino Nicky Taisacan voted Friday at 11:30am and at 2pm, respectively. Kapileo is running as an independent, while Taisacan is seeking the post under the Republican Party.

Igitol said they opened at 8:30am

and closed at 4pm daily for early voting.

Igitol said they haven’t had any problems or issues yet.

Taisacan, who is a Cannabis Commission commissioner, in an interview said the voting process is fast so he urged registered voters to come out and exercise their rights.

Keola Taisacan, wife of Valentino Taisacan, said the voting was fast and straightforward.

She said she decided to vote on the first day of early voting because she wants to be done with the election and just wait for the actual Nov. 8 election day.

Keola Taisacan is an employee of the Office of the Attorney General.

LEADERS

From Page 1

came together to discuss the state of education in their respective institutions during the Education Summit held last Thursday at the Saipan World Resort’s Taga Hall.

During the summit, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, Northern Marianas Technical Institute chief executive officer Jodina Attao, and Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin DeLeon Guerrero delivered their state of education addresses to a crowd which included Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, NMC Board of Regents, CNMI PSS Board of Education, the NMTECH Board of Trustees, some PSS teachers, NMC faculty and staff, and NMTECH staff and instructors.

In his speech, first and foremost, Ada said, to think of all the teachers they’ve had from primary to high school, “think of all of the formative years, and the teachers that were there for us, as they helped us and groomed us to become who we are today.”

He then proceeded to talk about three trends within PSS that came about as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first trend “is the modern contemporary learning platform in public education. This platform in moving forward with future trends for the CNMI remains productive for our citizens in the global society. Thirty years ago, we had chalkboards, typewriters... Today, we have laptops, iPads, smart boards, technology on wheels, and access to endless online content programs centered

around student use for the development of 21st century skills. Thirty years ago, we would not have ever dreamed of online learning. It just didn’t exist. But today, our remote islands have distance education.”

The second trend “is the devotion of social emotional learning and mental health. Our teachers are more than just textbook instruction. They give emotional support and structure and social emotional and mental health awareness has helped guide our children through their most difficult and formative years. Happy schools mean happy teachers, happy teachers mean happy learners.

The PSS mental health team, Haligi Aware, has “recognized that mental health crises exist in the CNMI Public School System, especially among our young children, who have weathered two years of disruption, virtual instruction, isolation, and constant changes to normal routines... Students must have access to professional help, health counseling services... Anxiety, stress, and depression is where our students are struggling the most. Over 954, students were given mental health skills to help their student peers. We continue to see alternative means to address the mental health needs of our students. And our counseling department is committed to training school counselors, so that they are able to respond to crises. As of today, sources of strength was the first training where our counselors were given firsthand training to teach their peers or to work with their peers about suicide ideation. We cannot deny the fact that mental health issues have come into the forefront

lately, and we recognize that it is much more than a school issue. It is a community wide concern,” said Ada.

The third and final trend he discussed was “the educational programs that PSS has currently achieved.”

He talked about the state infrastructure technology increasing the bandwidth access connectivity within the classroom schools so that teaching and learning will be reliable and dependable, issuing one laptop and Mifi per family which makes distance education a reality, and the new CNMI PSS website, cnmipss.org.

Next up was Attao, who introduced herself, thanked the board and faculty, and gave a breakdown on the state of education for NMTECH.

Attao took the role of CEO in April of last year “as it officially transitioned from a nonprofit organization to a government entity. And I’m going to be completely honest, it has been one of the biggest challenges I have ever tackled. Aside from being a fulltime student, a full time employee and a fulltime mother of five. This has not been an easy feat. Throughout my career, I’ve learned to embrace my struggles, look at my problems as opportunities for growth and learn from them. I learned to stop being afraid of what could go wrong and get excited for what could go right. Through the obstacles that we have encountered and overcame as an organization.”

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

OVER

From Page 1

audited and adjudicated.

“The numbers have really been reduced as far as weekly benefits payments. [However] we still have over 1,000 clients who are waiting to have their applications audited, for example, due to an error in the first round of PUA. So we’re still really busy with PUA,” she said.

Benavente explained that there are still a handful of individuals waiting to be audited and adjudicated due to overpayments.

“When we first opened our wonderful portal, it was processing claims as long as you answered the questions right. So if you answered a question in a way that you were deemed eligible. So many of our clients receive a few benefits that were not eligible for. So they’ve had to either repay it back or set up a payment plan with DOL,” she said.

Although DOL closed the submission of PUA applications last October 2021, the deadline to disburse funds has been pushed to June 2023.

“Our deadline is actually June 2023. The application acceptance window ended in October 2021, but we still had a backlog at that time of about 4,000 applications that were not adjudicated. But now we’re down to 1,000. But to me 1,000 is still a big number because that’s 1,000 individuals still waiting for benefits they ap-

plied for last year. It’s very frustrating I understand,” Benavente said.

Although it may be frustrating, waiting for long overdue benefits, Benavente said benefits paid out every week have been steadily decreasing as PUA adjudicators work as fast as they can to get benefits paid out.

“We continue to process and I can see the numbers of benefits each week being paid out. Last week it was less than \$800,000. I’m sure this week will be less than that. In the beginning we had 10 educators. Now we have over 60 and they’re typing as fast as they can, adding and subtracting, trying to figure out what was the overpayment or if there are missing documents. What documents do we need because you know, 2020 and 2021 were very tumultuous years. Businesses closed, documents were shipped away or locked away, so getting documents to verify a PUA applicant has been a challenge. Please bear with us,” the secretary stated.

To date, Benavente noted, about \$400 million in PUA and FPUC benefits have been paid out which leaves the CNMI with roughly \$300 million ready and available to those whose applications qualify.

“Almost close to \$400 million have been dispersed. So we still have a balance of about \$300 million, that’s a total of 700 million which was granted this year to the CNMI as far as pandemic unemployment assistance and federal pandemic unemployment compensation,” she said.

Expert presenters at Open Ocean Aquaculture Symposium

As part of its efforts to promote new farming industries in the Marianas, Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services and the KKMP Foundation will be hosting an Open Ocean Aquaculture Symposium on Oct. 6, 2022.

The symposium is intended to educate CNMI stakeholders about the industry with seasoned experts presenting on the subject matter, engage the public, entrepreneurs, and decision makers in a meaningful discussion on OOA and what it will take to get the industry moving, and discuss opportunities and potential challenges for stakeholders and the industry.

Featured presenters at the symposium will be professor and director of Aquaculture at the University of Miami's Department of Marine Biology and Ecology Dr. Daniel Benetti, founder and chief executive officer of Ocean Era, Inc. Neil Anthony Sims, research associate professor and aquaculture specialist at University of New Hampshire Dr. Michael D. Chambers, president and chief executive officer of Gulfstream Aquaculture, LLC Dennis Peters, and regional aquaculture coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-



Benetti



Chambers



Peters



Sims



Spence-McConnell

tion Fisheries' Pacific Islands Regional Office Tori Spence-McConnell.

Benetti has over 40 years of experience in aquaculture and environmental studies worldwide. He specializes in hatcheries and offshore aquaculture technologies. Besides his academic and research responsibilities, he carries out scientific and research and development projects on technology development and environmental issues related to aquaculture and project development. He focuses on advanced technologies of raising tropical and subtropical marine fish species and the biotic and abiotic aspects related to their biology, ecology and conservation.

Sims is the founder and CEO of Ocean Era, Inc., in Kona, Hawai'i, working in applied research for marine finfish such as kampachi and mahimahi, herbivorous reef fish, and tropical macroalgae, and exploring microbial biodiges-

tion of macroalgae. Sims has founded commercial offshore kampachi farms in Hawaii and Mexico. He led the Vella projects: an untethered, offshore "drifter pen," and an unmanned net-pen operation in 2,000m of water, 10km offshore. His company is deploying an offshore macroalgae array in Kona, and is applying for permits for an offshore fish and macroalgae farm off Oahu, and offshore permits in

the Gulf of Mexico.

Chambers has been advancing open ocean farming technologies for over 30 years in the United States and abroad. In the US, he has managed submerged cage culture projects in the Gulf of Mexico, Hawaii and the North Atlantic. In 2000, he took the role as Project Manager at the University of New Hampshire's (UNH) Open Ocean Aquaculture Project and the Atlantic

Marine Aquaculture Center. This project was in the forefront of developing biological, engineering, and environmental technologies for the commercialization of offshore aquaculture in the U.S.

Peters is the president and CEO of Gulfstream Aquaculture, LLC, in Miramar Beach,

Florida, which focuses on marine finfish research and development; offshore, coastal, and land based siting analyses; demonstration and pilot farm operations; and commercial feasibility assessments for land based and open ocean aquaculture. Peters' tenure in

See **EXPERT** on Next Page


NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: September 22, 2022 CLOSING DATE: October 07, 2022 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2022-032	1- CDBG-DR Accountant	\$25,000.00- \$30,000.00 -per annum-UNGRADED
2022-033	1-CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist-Tinian	\$25,000.00-\$30,000.00 - per annum-UNGRADED
2022-034	1-CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist-Saipan	\$25,000.00-\$30,000.00 - per annum- UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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Nurture our bodies and minds

Maintain physical and mental fitness goals

Improve our overall health!

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for ourselves, our family, our neighbors, our home...

AS OF AUGUST 22, 2022

12
CASES PER DAY

AVERAGE CASES
INCREASED BY
1267%
(FROM 2 WEEKS AGO)

DEATH
DECREASED BY
30%

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF PANDEMIC:

1 OF 4
RESIDENTS HAVE
BEEN INFECTED

12,953
TOTAL REPORTED
CASES

39
DEATHS

Brought to you by Office of the Governor and COVID Task Force



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-040

A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary for the removal of the existing A-16 Sewer Lift Station 350 KW Generator and Automatic Transfer Switch, procurement of a new 350 KW generator and Automatic Transfer Switch, modification of the existing concrete generator pad to match the new pad size requirement (if needed), restoration of the existing oil containment berm, repair of exhaust & muffler, and equipment start-up and commissioning. The work shall be done in accordance with the Scope of Work and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-040, A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 13, 2022, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of One Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bonds must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 23, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Purchasing Technician Senior via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CUC introduces typhoon preparedness plan

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has recently shared its typhoon preparedness plans as a means to proactively prepare in the case of a major or minor typhoon.

Because the CNMI is currently in the middle of typhoon season, and due to recent announcements of developing tropical disturbances surrounding the Marianas archipelago, CUC executive director Gary Camacho says the department has been proactively planning ahead and is ready to announce its Typhoon preparedness plan.

As part of the preparedness plan, Camacho said the first thing CUC is encouraging the public to implement immediately is safety measures within their homes and businesses

and to be alert to electrical, water and wastewater safety concerns in case a storm approaches the islands.

"CNMI residents should ensure that your household has an adequate drinking water supply, water containers if they don't have a water tank, batteries for flashlights, and if you have a generator, stock up on fuel supply accordingly. During a storm, get in a safe place, buckle down, stay in place and wait for the storm to subside," Camacho said.

Aside from their own personal preparations, Camacho said CNMI residents should also expect a disruption of utility services.

He explains that in the case of a major storm, CUC will try to keep power and water services on as long as possible, but if it becomes detrimental,

then CUC will shut the power down until the following day or until it is deemed safe to restore power.

"We will do the best we can. We will review and assess and try to bring up the affected utility system accordingly and safely. CUC, in collaboration with the Emergency Operations Center and CNMI Homeland Security will continuously put out information regarding the affected areas, and how we are progressing, and how we are restoring water and power in those areas," he said.

As for water supply, Camacho assures the community that it will be the number one priority to get the service back up, even before power.

For more information on typhoon preparedness, please visit CUC's website <https://www.cucgov.org>.

EXPERT

From Page 5

oceanographic and coastal marine research, monitoring, and permitting, as well as in fisheries management and aquaculture development, has prioritized the protection and enhancement of marine and estuarine ecosystems of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Caribbean waters.

Spence-McConnell coor-

dinates aquaculture management for the NOAA Fisheries' Pacific Islands Regional Office. Prior to joining NOAA Fisheries, Spence-McConnell worked as a Senior Aquaculture Scientist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch program, and previously worked as a lead auditor and program manager for seafood eco-certifications throughout the Americas, Southeast Asia, and Europe. She holds a B.S.

in Biology from the University of Kentucky and an M.S. in Aquaculture from the University of Rhode Island.

The symposium will be held at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan from 8am to 4pm. Interested participants can register for the event by logging on to bit.ly/OOA2022. For more information, contact Michael Ogo at michael.ogo@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6847. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-039

GARAPAN SEWER MAINS AND MANHOLES REPLACEMENTS
(CORAL TREE AVE., DATE STREET, CPL DERENCE JACK ROAD, PLUMERIA AVENUE, PALM STREET, GINGER AVENUE AND ROYAL PALM AVENUE)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Garapan Sewer Mains and Manholes Replacements (Coral Tree Avenue, Date Street, CPL Derence Jack Road, Plumeria Avenue, Palm Street, Ginger Avenue and Royal Palm Avenue) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of but not limited to the installation of gravity sewer main, new sewer manholes, replacement and rehabilitation of sewer manholes, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, relocation of existing 10-inch waterline and the abandonment of existing sewer line, removal and removal and disposal of existing sewer manholes.

The project is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Infrastructure Recovery Program (IRP) office of the Governor. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from ARPA/IRP.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-039, Garapan Sewer Mains and Manholes Replacements – Coral Tree Avenue, Date Street, CPL Derence Jack Road, Plumeria Avenue, Palm Street, Ginger Avenue and Royal Palm Avenue" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 12, 2022, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 21, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, Engineer via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician Senior, via email address at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on September 30, 2022 at 10:30am to 1:00pm at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Caladium room.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of September 30, 2022
- IV. Action Items
 - A. Election of Officers
 1. Secretary
 2. Vice Chairperson
 3. Chairperson
- V. New Business
 - A. 2022 NDEAM update
 - B. NMC Gubernatorial Debate
 - C. Preview of COVID-19 Booster Shot Videos
- VI. Miscellaneous
- VII. Next Meeting
- VIII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Robert Mendiola
Chairperson

This ad is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award total \$274,744 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

NMC to livestream Chamber 2022 gubernatorial debate

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2022 Gubernatorial Candidate Debate is sold out almost immediately after the announcement of the event.

The Chamber understands the high demand for this debate and is excited to announce that the Northern Marianas College will be livestreaming the event for the community via their Facebook page.

In addition to NMC's livestreaming, the Chamber has invited media partners to join the event so that the information is well covered for individuals who were not able to secure an RSVP.

The Chamber will host the 2022 Gubernatorial Candidate Debate for the CNMI Gubernatorial Candidates on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, at the World Resort Saipan, Taga Hall, from 5:45pm to 8pm.

The Chamber extends thanks to the community for their support as it prepares for the upcoming 2022 Gubernatorial Candidate Debate. RSVP is closed and is sold out.

The Chamber also extends thanks to the running gubernatorial candidates for accepting our invitation and look forward to a productive and exciting event.

As the debate nears, the Chamber wants to remind its

patrons of the following rules:

AUDIENCE RULES

■ Entry to the debate hall requires a ticket confirmation number in the form of a QR Code or Registration ID. No confirmation number, no entry, no exceptions.

■ Event is open to the general public. Tickets are \$10 each.

■ No campaign materials, literature, hats, stickers, signs, banners, or the like shall be displayed or distributed at or around the debate venue.

■ Audience shall refrain from talking, applauding, making noise, and doing anything visible or audible to express support or opposition to any candidate during the debate.

■ All electronic devices must be turned off or set to silent mode. If you must take a call, exit the hall quietly. To avoid distractions, you will not be allowed to re-enter the hall until intermission or after the debate.

■ The use of mobile phones or devices to take photos or video shall not be permitted during the debate but such use may occur during intermission or after the debate.

■ No person shall be allowed on the stage area except candidates, the Chamber

president, staff, and event committee chairperson.

VENUE RULES

■ No betel nut chewing or chewing of any kind, smoking/vaping, or alcohol consumption during the event.

■ No outside food allowed inside the hall. Refreshments will be sold outside the hall.

This debate is offered in the effort to further educate voters on the issues of our island by presenting the opportunity to hear differing opinions and solutions, and for those who are unfamiliar with the various platforms of each candidate.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization with over 130 members to date. The SCC was founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976. It is the largest private business organization in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Chamber works to promote and protect the business, economic, and civic interest, and general health and welfare of our islands. If you would like more information about our event or our organization, please visit our office located at the Marianas Business Plaza, 4th Floor, Suite 413 or contact our office at (670) 234-7150, or email coordinator2@saipan-chamber.com. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 117 D 03, containing an area of approximately 4,892 square meters, situated in Puerto Rico, Saipan. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.
 - The prospective lessee is Coldwell Energy 1 LLC. The list of officers for Coldwell Energy 1 LLC is David Hood, as Manager.
 - The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officer and director of Coldwell Energy 1 LLC, mainly David Hood.
 - The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of a business warehouse and storage facility.
- The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.
- The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.
- A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp
 - The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Puerto Rico, Saipan.
 - The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 3, 2022, at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota, or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÂNU' PUPBLIKU

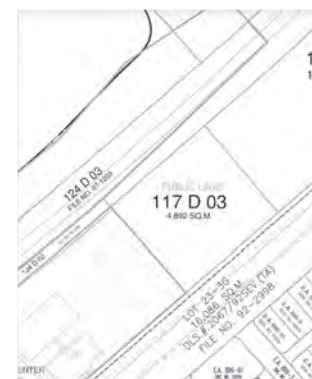
Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku mannâna'i huyung nutisia guini put i intension-niha para u ma'atila metton na tanu' pupbluku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariânas. Maseha hâyi na pattidâ intrisao gi halum hinirât pupbluku siha muna hâlum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniuin kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbluku. Komu mapribeni mäs mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

- I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbluku madiskribi komu Lot 117 D 03 ni kunsissisti kâsi 4,892 square meters, ni gaigi gi hâlum Puerto Rico, iya Saipan. I mâpa ni ina'a'annuk i lugât managuaha gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku yan gi website i www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.
 - I prospective lessee i Coldwell Energy 1 LLC. I listan nu ufisiât siha para i Coldwell Energy 1 LLC sa si David Hood, komu i Manager.
 - I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginen manegosiu ni ufisiât yan direktot nu Coldwell Energy 1 LLC, mayotmenti as David Hood.
 - I lessee debi na u usa i lugât put atyu ha' na rason nu i pine'lun fektus/matirât bisnis yan fasilidât pine'lu.
- I tema nu i maproponi na kontrâtan atkilon sa' bentsingku (25) âñus na tiempu.
- I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' sâkkan gi durântin teman kontrâtan i atkilon mapega gi put sientus i bâlin "appraised fair market" i propiedât yan i aplikâo na put sientus nu i "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum i regulasion DPL.
- I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntrâtan atkilon siha machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i PM Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokku' na u managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp
 - I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku tâya marisibi ni hâfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atila i suhetu na tanu' pupbluku gi Puerto Rico, giya Saipan.
 - I Sekretariun Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku debi na u akseptâ tinigi' upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniuin kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintrisâo na pattidâ siha gi pat ântis di Oktubri 3, 2022, gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL POMMWOL ATKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tâilil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mângemángil rebwe atkilaay akkáaw faluweer toulap Ilól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng Ilól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isisilong kkapas, data, views, ngäre angingi reel pommwol atkiloónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sáangi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritw ebwe akkatéewow.

- Ppwomwol atkiloónol faluweer toulap e bwáálo bwe Lot 117 D 03, e lo bwe 4,892 reel square meters, iye e lo Puerto Rico, Seipél. E bwáálo wóol móopa falúw yeel me eyoor me Bwulasiyol Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóol website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngäre u mwuschel amwuri.
 - Ppwomwol schóól atkiloón nge Coldwell Energy 1 LLC. List-al officers ngáli Coldwell Energy 1 LLC nge David Hood, bwe Manager.
 - Ppwomwol atkiloón nge e angúungú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sáangi officer me director-il Coldwell Energy 1 LLC, spesiatmente David Hood.
 - Schóól atkiloón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutúl "business warehouse" me "storage facility".
- Ppwomwol abwungubwung atkiloón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.
- Ppwomwol atkiloónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel "percentage of the appraised fair market value" reel falúw fengál me "applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts" Ilól mwóghutughutúl DPL.
- Pappidil ppwomwol abwungubwungú atkiloón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél, 1st floor me De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta; ngäre 1st floor reel PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ewal yoer pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp
 - Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh ppwomw iye e siiweli falúw reel atkiloónol falúw Ilól Puerto Rico, Seipél.
 - Sekkretóriyol Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwel bweibwogh ischil mângemáng, views, angingi ngäre ppwomw iye re siiweli sáangi schóó kka re mwuschel wóol ngäre mmwalil Ottuubre 3, 2022, me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ikka e lo wóol Seipél, Luuta ngäre Tchiliyól.



NMPASI

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

Request for Proposal

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals for Audit of financial and compliance audit for fiscal year ending **September 30, 2022**. NMPASI is designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect people's rights, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the financial and compliance audit shall be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **December 16, 2022**. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

- Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;
- OMB Circular A-133; and
- Compliance with the general Requirements Applicable to Federal Financial Assistance Program.

Award will be based on specific factor such as prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. The contract for this audit will be awarded no later than **December 30, 2022**, and a final audit report shall be completed by **March 17, 2023**. A list of specific audit requirements and Agency's profile are available at NMPASI office, Gualo Rai. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Mr. Gregory Borja, Executive Director at (670) 235-7273/4 (voice) or email at gborja@nmpasi.org.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Trump's no-good, terrible, very bad day was a very good one for America

Perhaps the starkest example of how dramatically Donald Trump's fortunes have changed in just a matter of days is contained in the opening paragraph of New York Attorney General Leticia James' financial fraud civil lawsuit against Trump and his family. Gone is any semblance of deference that Trump typically expects as a billionaire ex-president. There is no hint of acknowledgment of his claim to special privileges. Rather, Trump gets the same treatment that prosecutors afford common criminals, commanded by James to appear in court or face default judgment on more than 200 allegations of financial fraud and a \$250 million fine.

Trump's no-good, terrible, very bad day was a great day for Americans who want to put an end to his lawlessness and lies, once and for all. His bad day also included a federal appeals court ruling bluntly trashing Trump's claim that the Justice Department should be denied criminal investigatory access to about 100 classified files that were among a trove of government documents Trump unlawfully possessed at his Florida estate. Trump has presented a convoluted argument that he somehow possessed special privileges as an ex-president to keep such files. The documents are the U.S. government's sole property.

Trump also made the bizarre claim Wednesday on Fox News that he had authority to declassify those documents merely by pronouncing it verbally or "even by thinking about it." Thus, he asserted, that no paper trail was needed to establish his legal authority to possess highly sensitive materials, unsecured, at his Mar-a-Lago estate.

By merely thinking they were declassified, Trump would have done his job. It would then be incumbent upon clairvoyant government officials to discern that he was abiding by the law instead of endangering national security by leaving the documents exposed to foreign espionage. Presumably, Trump would have used these magical thinking powers while he was still president, since ex-presidents have never had the power to declare verbally, in writing or using telepathy that highly classified materials are now declassified.

But this is the absurd degree to which Trump—who millions of Republicans still want back in the White House—deludes himself about his own powers. Add to that the hundreds of examples of Trumpian self-delusion contained within the New York attorney general's lawsuit alleging financial fraud, and it should be clear to all Americans by now that Trump is a dangerous, unabashed con man whose only goal is his political or financial advancement.

Trump can try to deflect with accusations of a Democratic "witch hunt" and by labeling James as "racist" be-

See TRUMP'S on Next Page



An off-ramp for Putin is repugnant but necessary

From the outset of Russia's war on Ukraine, the crucial question hasn't changed: Can Vladimir Putin be defeated at an acceptable cost? Despite all we now know about Russia's military incompetence and the courage and skill of Ukraine's forces, the answer is still uncertain.

This leads to an uncomfortable conclusion, one that President Joe Biden showed no trace of understanding in his speech at the United Nations on Wednesday: Planning for the end of this conflict needs to weigh outcomes that are disappointing, even disgraceful, for the sake of avoiding those that are catastrophic.

The idea of an off-ramp for Putin strikes many as repugnant—and now, for good measure, entirely unnecessary. Ukraine is winning! Why help Russia snatch so much as a partial victory from the jaws of defeat?

The "Ukraine must win" chorus never clearly sets out what Russia's defeat really involves. Perhaps it means that Russia is pushed back behind its pre-2014 borders and then just comes to terms with it. Or maybe Putin's humiliation causes domestic opposition to explode and he's removed; his successor is someone the West can do business with; Russia's claims to superpower status collapse; and its demotion to second-tier status is acknowledged and accepted.

All good stuff, to be sure, and nothing is impossible. But, to put it mildly, these futures aren't assured.

As governments gathered for the U.N. meeting, Putin announced his intention to prolong the war with a "partial mobilization" that in due course will field another 300,000 soldiers. And he underlined his threat to use nuclear weapons: "Russia will use all the instruments at its disposal to counter a threat against its territorial integrity. This is not a bluff." Soon that notion of territorial integrity might include areas Russia currently occupies and intends to annex.

I keep reading that one should be aware of Putin's nuclear threats but not intimidated by them. Call me a coward, but I find it difficult to think about Armageddon without being a little intimidated—and I ask the same of my political leaders. If at all possible, it's better to avoid than invite mass death and destruction. Of course, simply surrendering in the face of such threats would assure defeat—but one can be rationally intimidated, and respond accordingly, without surrendering. That's what mutually assured destruction is supposed to mean.

Am I exaggerating the danger? Won't Putin be deterred from using nuclear weapons if he's threatened with a proportionately drastic response? Again, maybe—but what's the deterrent, exactly? It's hard to see how sanctions could be made much tougher, not least because they're already causing great damage beyond Russia. Having gone to such lengths to support Ukraine without

By **CLIVE CROOK**
Bloomberg Opinion

Clive Crook is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and member of the editorial board covering economics. Previously, he was deputy editor of the Economist and chief Washington commentator for the Financial Times.



putting any of its own forces at risk, can the U.S. credibly threaten (as some advise) to attack Russia in response to a tactical nuclear strike—let alone credibly threaten a nuclear response?

Supposing the threats and counter-threats evolve in that direction, note a worrisome dissonance in much of the analysis of Putin's calculations. His attack on Ukraine was judged to be not just deplorable but also reckless. Yet he is expected to parse the pros and cons of "escalating to de-escalate" as prudence demands. What could possibly go wrong?

Ukraine's remarkable battlefield successes create an opening to bring the war to a close without running these extraordinary risks. What's needed now is a settlement that lets Putin claim a victory that everybody else understands to be a defeat. This could emerge from negotiations in a variety of different forms. But imagine, to begin with, a ceasefire that set borders according to current battle lines, with a longer-term outcome that ceded some territory to Russia while admitting most of today's Ukraine to NATO.

Until recently, Putin would have deemed this unacceptable. Now it might not look so bad.

Of course, Ukraine and its most ardent supporters would hate it too. Rewarding Russia's hostility with territory and sustaining Putin in power seem unconscionable. But it has been a grave mistake throughout for the U.S. and its friends to defer as much as they have to Ukraine's judgment of what's at stake and how much risk to run. Ukraine's interests and calculations of warranted sacrifice are aligned with those of the West, but not identical to them.

Most of the world would see a negotiated outcome not as Ukraine might, but as a salutary defeat for Russia. The suggestion that Putin would simply pause, gather strength, and then renew his wars of expansion in pursuit of Greater Russia is a stretch. The course of the war has underlined the limits of Russia's power, tested the patience of its allies, and cemented the capacity of the West to challenge its actions. The total humiliation of Putin, or his removal from power, isn't necessary to drive this home.

Accepting this deeply unsatisfying result would lessen the risk of a catastrophic wider conflict. It's a price worth paying.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

DC Forum for Pacific Island leaders

Later this month, Pacific Island nation leaders from the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, and Tuvalu will be congregating in Washington, D.C. for the first ever Pacific Islands Nations Summit sponsored by the Biden administration. The Cook Islands, Niue, New Caledonia and French Polynesia will not be participating in the event.

The purpose of the summit will be to convene Pacific Island nation leaders and the Biden administration to discuss COVID-19 responses, increasing American military presence, climate change and environmental protection, as well as workforce development topics. Pacific Island leaders hope to convey to the Biden administration the region's key needs, as opposed to what the U.S. government views as key.

The incentive for both the Biden administration and Pacific Island leaders to find compromise is high as China continues to make inroads and further establish itself throughout the northern, southern, and western Pacific ocean regions using political and economic warfare tools against the United States vis-a-vis the Maritime Belt and Road Initiative. The strategic intent of the summit is to enable Pacific Island leaders to have discussions that are designed to look out three decades into the future, enabling real change to be initiated moving forward.

Knock, knock

This summit is taking place at the doorstep of the next American election cycle. The summit is taking place as the Compacts of Free Association are set to expire. This summit is taking place as the United States opens up embassies in Tonga, the Solomon Islands, and Kiribati. This summit is taking place as China is making agreements with the Solomon Islands to have access to its port facilities, which is something that irks both the United States and Australia. This summit is taking place on the eve of Xi Jinping being re-elected to a third term.

Our Deep Blue Pacific Ocean continent is becoming more and more strategically important for key industrial nation states such as China and America. The United States has not placed as much emphasis or resources over the past three decades to fully satisfy and resolve a host of concerns that have their beginnings during the Cold War or/and World War II.

There are still many political and human affairs topics found throughout our Deep Blue continent that remain unresolved with the United States that should or will be brought up with the Biden administration at the summit. If America does too little, these festering problems will continue to widen America's credibility gap seen throughout Micronesia and Oceania. The U.S. Department of State is keenly aware of this predicament.

China sees how to exploit the political and diplomatic fissures between the United States and various Pacific Island nations that have remained unresolved. If not properly remediated, the United States will experience long-term risks that China will continue to gain advantage throughout our Deep Blue Pacific Ocean continent.

China continues to deploy more money, resources, and influence

When it comes to financial resource giving in the Pacific Basin, it appears that China, not the United States, is leading the way. This is important to consider since China alone has delivered economic aid to Pacific Basin nations at over twice the level (approximately \$5 billion) of combined aid compared to what Australia, the U.S., Japan, and Britain have spent collectively.

Unlike the West, China strategizes from the perspective of what the world will look like 100 years from today, similar in some ways to what the Chinese did with the British on Hong Kong.

Remember that China is also currently soliciting how it can more effectively work with a variety of Central Asian nations that hold vast amounts of natural resources. China is pursuing additional inroads to further enhance its relationship with Russia such as purchasing immense amounts of petroleum resources that are currently sanctioned by the west. China also controls rare earth materials needed by the Pentagon for missiles and other high-end weaponry.

Several possibilities are presented now for our Chamorro people of the Mariana Islands

Neither Guam nor the Northern Mariana Islands have ever had a Marianas Islands summit sponsored by and directly involving the White House, the U.S. Congress, and the executive line agency community of the United States federal government.

RICK'S COLUMN

By **RICK ARRIOLA PEREZ**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rick Arriola Perez is a U.S. military veteran who has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Bank of Hawaii, and the government of Guam. He holds several degrees including ones from University of California Los Angeles and the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Rick is passionate about national security and foreign affairs in the Pacific Asia region and runs a blogsite called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For more information, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

Now is an opportune time to have the next congressman or congresswoman from Guam and the congressman from the Northern Marianas Islands put forth a proposal to hold a formal summit sometime next year. Both the Guam and Northern Marianas congressional representatives will also have the opportunity to pursue leadership positions in the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus.

Guam and the Northern Marianas will not be formally attending the upcoming Pacific Island nation summit with the Biden administration because our ancient homes are American colonial outposts. Despite this gap, it is in the Biden administration's interest to fully receive a list of key environmental, political, Chamorro cultural, and economic concerns from the next congressional representatives to be elected this fall, with support from the Guam and Northern Mariana Islands governors.

Both the Chamorro people of the Mariana Islands and the United States government have the common incentive to negotiate and resolve longstanding problems because this will lead to a truer and stronger homeland and national security environment.

No longer can we sustain blind acceptance of a geostrategic and geopolitical framework that was laid down prior to the Cold War era. The Cold War era is long over and China has been and continues to knock on Deep Blue Pacific Ocean continent doors.

We should have held Nixon accountable for Watergate

President Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 when it became clear that he would be not only impeached but likely removed from office. I still have a vivid memory of the day that he resigned. There were rumors that it might happen, but I was spending the night at my mother-in-law's house, and she was a huge Nixon supporter. I was hoping with all my heart that Nixon would at least have the decency to postpone his resignation until after I had left her house. I didn't want to have to listen to her defend Nixon once again.

But he resigned that day, and the speech he gave was a disgrace. He continued to refuse to admit he had done anything wrong, which delighted my mother-in-law. He said:

"From the discussions I have had with congressional and other leaders, I have concluded that because of the Watergate matter, I might not have the support of the Congress that I would consider necessary to back the very difficult decisions and carry out the duties of this office in the way the interests of the nation will require. I have never been a quitter. To leave office before my term is completed is abhorrent to every instinct in my body. But as president, I must put the interests of America first."

He presented himself as making a noble sacrifice for the good

of the country, when in fact it was clear at that point that even Republicans in Congress would vote to remove him from office in what would have been a humiliating impeachment trial. His resignation speech was just another lie. And we let him get away with this. I should have understood this when I saw my mother-in-law smile with pleasure after she heard what he had to say.

We were all traumatized by Watergate, and Nixon's vice president, Gerald Ford, wanted to make it possible for the country to move forward, so when he became president, he issued a pardon for Nixon. I think he had the best of intentions. The country had been through so much with the Watergate affair, and Ford believed that it was time to free the country from the years of Watergate obsession.

My father was a well-known professor of political science and a very thoughtful man, and he supported Ford's decision, saying that the country should not have to see a former president stand trial and go to prison. But Ford was wrong, and so was my father. The fact is that America never did heal after Watergate. We didn't move on. We needed to see Nixon pay for his crimes, but instead we saw him reclaim a place of honor in American history. The pardon served only to protect Nixon's presidency from a reckoning. Not only did he not go to prison, but his reputation was saved as well.

After Nixon left office, he wrote 10 books and developed a reputation as a "senior statesman," even though he had engaged in a plot to pay hush money to the Watergate burglars, used governmental agencies (including the Internal Revenue Service) to target and punish political enemies, and attempted to subvert a presidential election. Ford's generous and well-intentioned pardon actually changed the course of the American presidency, teaching future presidents that they could do just about anything they wanted to do and never suffer consequences. Nixon was invited back to the White House, and his opinions on world events were widely sought.

By SOLOMON D. STEVENS

Chicago Tribune



Solomon D. Stevens has a doctorate in political science from Boston College and has taught American government, constitutional law and political theory.

Ford issued the pardon, but it was the American people who made it clear that they were tired of controversy and wanted to embrace some form of normalcy. We longed to forget what had happened and live our lives as if the president had not defiled his office and threatened the rule of law. The American people are to blame.

Nixon famously said that when the president does something, it means it's not illegal. But that is a rejection of everything for which our country should stand. No one is above the law. The president cannot do what he wants to do just because he is the president. Donald Trump learned from Nixon and famously said, "I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody, and I wouldn't lose any voters." We are living with the consequences of Watergate fatigue. We yearned for normalcy then, but our country has never returned to anything resembling that.

Nixon's dangerous legacy informs our politics today for one very important reason: He was never held accountable for his crimes against the country. We have never recovered from Watergate.

Nixon created a playbook for future presidents, and we are living with the consequences of never calling him to account. We must not make that mistake again.

TRUMP'S

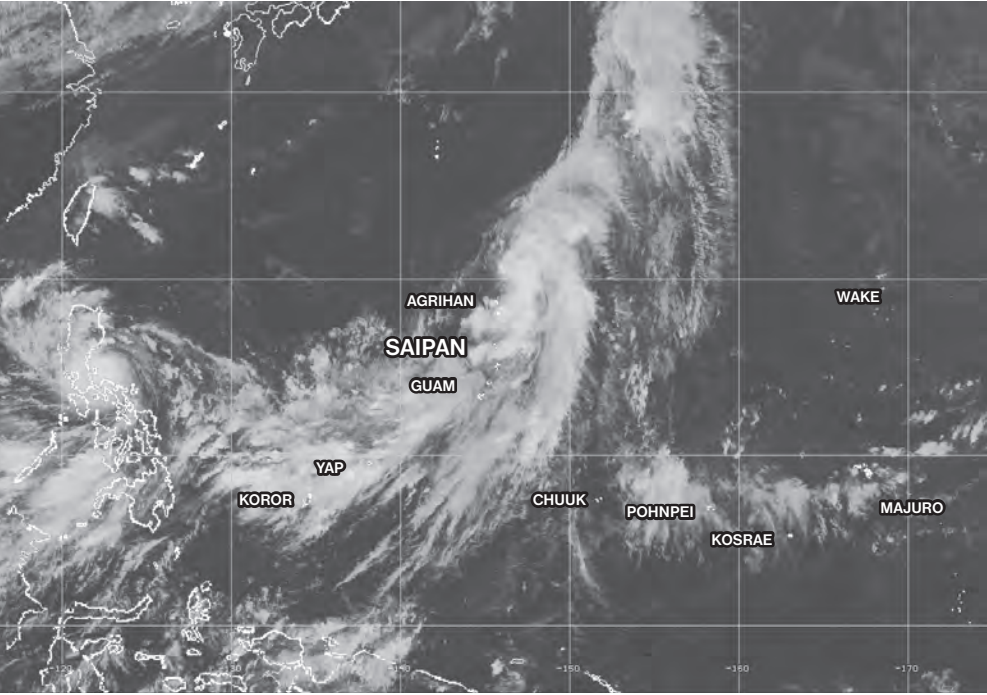
From Page 8

cause she's a Black woman pursuing justice against a white man. But the 222-page lawsuit speaks for itself. It is detailed, well-documented and damning.

Trump's courtroom comeuppance ultimately would serve Americans of all political stripes because it would affirm a concept that badly needs affirmation: That no person is above the law.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy		Scattered showers. Partly sunny		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
88°	77°	88°	78°	86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Doppler radar and satellite imagery indicate stratiform rain, showers and some thunderstorms flanking Guam to the east and speeding across the CNMI as tropical disturbance 96W treks north-northwest. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are around 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	88° / 77°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:08 AM	6:31 PM	-
Tuesday	6:59 AM	7:09 PM	-
Wednesday	7:52 AM	7:49 PM	-
Thursday	8:47 AM	8:32 PM	-
Friday	9:46 AM	9:20 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	60° / 56°	
Beijing	Sunny	86° / 57°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	90° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Light Rain	58° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	89° / 68°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
Melbourne	Light Rain	60° / 51°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
New York	Thunderstorms	75° / 60°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	86° / 70°	
Paris	Rain	58° / 49°	
Busan	Cloudy	77° / 65°	
Rome	Thundershowers	74° / 62°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	86° / 65°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	71° / 56°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	80° / 56°	
Tokyo	Sunny	81° / 67°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	80° / 58°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:51 AM	Low Tide	0.64	
7:32 AM	High Tide	1.88	
2:00 PM	Low Tide	0.34	
8:06 PM	High Tide	1.92	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-NARITA				NARITA-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
				TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
				TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T*Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS									
INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022									
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN						
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY				
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)				
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.					
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)				
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN						
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY				
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.					
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.					
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN						
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY				
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.					
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.					

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily		
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun		
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri		
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily		
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA					
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily		
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily		
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily		
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily		
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily		
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily		
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily		

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MANGO member makes Final 5 in SEED to Sail

The Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations extends its warmest congratula-

4.4-magnitude quake in Pagan

A report of a 4.4-magnitude earthquake occurred in Pagan, Northern Mariana Islands last Saturday, Sept. 24, at 8:15pm. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. **(PR)**

tions to Amel Gruspe, MANGO member and perfect attendance participant in the Lemmai/Mei Incubator Community Training. Gruspe has been chosen as one of the final five business owners to showcase his business idea on Stemify CNMI at the SEED to Sail main event last Sept. 16.

SEED (Supporting Entrepreneurs and Economic Development) to Sail is a guided experience for start-up and early-stage businesses to create and present a pitch to support their application to receive "seed money" to fund their small business venture. This



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amel Gruspe, standing, at one of MANGO's community training on the Nonprofit Toolkit back in April.

is sponsored by the CNMI Small Business Development Center in partnership with CNMI graduate students enrolled in the University of Guam Masters in Public

Administration Program Class of 2023.

The competition is for aspiring and new small business owners established in the

CNMI for no more than one year. Competitors will present their business pitches to a panel of seven judges. The top scorer will be awarded \$20,000;

second place, \$10,000; and third place, \$5,000 in seed money. Participants will receive one-on-one counseling through the CNMI SBDCN, build a viable business plan, and network with other community small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Gruspe says "This project counts as one of MANGO's laurels for having those training sessions." "The team shares the excitement as we wish Gruspe good luck in this competition," Shawna Babauta, MANGO training manager shares. **(PR)**

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
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E-mail: pppo@marianas.edu, Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

JANITORIAL SERVICES

NMC IFB 22-0006

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Janitorial, Housekeeping and Cleaning Services for the As Terlaje Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Thursday, August 25, 2022 between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Packages are due no later than 2:00 p.m., September 26, 2022, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. P, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB email to Anita Camacho (ppmo@marianas.edu). This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittal shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Manager

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501056 SAIPAN MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMI-PORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEVELOPMENT OF ECHO DOCK

PORT OF SAIPAN

CPA RFP NO. CPA-RFP-010-2022
(CPA CONCESSION NO. SEA 2022-01)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("Authority") is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for the development of Echo Dock, which is situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone. This RFP is being issued pursuant to NMIAC § 40-70-205.

The RFP Package is available beginning Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check, or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Other than this administrative fee, proposers are not required to submit a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.

All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

Date RFP Package becomes available	August 31, 2022 (8:00 AM)
Date of RFP briefing meeting	September 16, 2022 (10:00 AM)
Deadline to submit Notice of Intent	September 28, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications	October 13, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP	October 28, 2022
Deadline for RFP submission	November 30, 2022 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their sealed proposals to the "CPA Evaluation Committee" and mark the outside cover of its submittal as follows: "RFP Proposal: Confidential - Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-010-2022)." Five (5) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD, DVD, or flash drive of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date 8/26/2022

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority
Office of the Governor
"Driving You Forward"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) relocated to the Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility located in Lowerbase, Saipan across the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Office. In addition, COTA's One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Center's contact number has changed to (670) 236-2682 effective August 25, 2022.

For additional information please contact COTA's Administrative Office at (670) 664-2682. Thank you.

Sincerely,
/s/ **Amalia M. Magofna**
Acting Special Assistant
for Public Transportation

Transportation

2nd Floor Rm. 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 664-2682; Fax: (670) 664-2692; Email: alfredac.maratita@gov.mp

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

(THIS IS AD IS PAID FOR NMHC WITH HUD FUNDS)

NMHC IFB 2022-009

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: October 27, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Purchase and Installation of Typhoon Shutters for the Koblerville Estates Housing Units

Project package will be available on **September 26, 2022**, on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement" menu tab. Interested bidders shall register via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan on October 06, 2022, 10:00 a.m. Failure to attend the Mandatory Pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Immediately after the Mandatory Pre-Bid conference, bidders are required to join the NMHC Personnel to visit and examine the project site. Failure to attend the project site visit will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation, must be addressed in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net or mail at P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 9650 or via fax at (670)234-9021, no later than 9:00 a.m. October 06, 2022.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

(THIS IS AD IS PAID FOR NMHC WITH HUD FUNDS)

NMHC IFB 2022-010

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: October 27, 2022, 11:00 a.m.

Purchase and Installation of Typhoon Shutters and Windows for the Mihaville Estates Housing Units

Project package will be available on **September 26, 2022**, on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement" menu tab. Interested bidders shall register via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

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For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

(THIS IS AD IS PAID FOR NMHC WITH HUD FUNDS)

NMHC IFB 2022-011

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: October 27, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Kagman Community Park Phase II Project

Project package will be available on September 26, 2022, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan on October 06, 2022, 2:00 p.m. Failure to attend the Mandatory Pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Immediately after the Mandatory Pre-Bid conference, bidders are required to join the NMHC Personnel to visit and examine the project site. Failure to attend the project site visit will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net or mail at P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 9650 or via fax at (670)234-9021, no later than 9:00 a.m. October 06, 2022.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

UOG rises on US News & World Report rankings

The University of Guam has climbed to higher positions on three U.S. News & World Report rankings and has gained a first-time recognition as well.

Released nationally this month, the 2022-2023 Best Colleges Rankings lists the University of Guam among 1,500 colleges and universities as a Top Performer on Social Mobility, one of the Best Regional Universities in the West, a Top Public School, and for the first time, a top school for Campus Ethnic Diversity.

Best Colleges List	2022 Ranking	2021 Ranking
Top Performers on Social Mobility	30 th	40 th
Top Public Schools – Regional Universities (West)	36 th	46 th
Best Regional Universities (West)	70 th	90 th
Campus Ethnic Diversity	57 th / .55 Diversity Index	

This is the third year that UOG has been included on the Best Colleges Rankings. UOG is categorized as a “regional university” on these lists, which is one that offers a full range of undergraduate programs and provides master’s degrees.

“Being named a top university by U.S. News & World Report for a third consecutive year is an honor, and even more so to see that we continue to rise in the ranks among institutions in our categories,” UOG President Thomas W. Krise said. “We are proud to bring recognition to our students, our university, our island, and our region as a top performer in social mobility, as one of the best universities in the West, and as an institution embracing the diversity of its community.”

The Best Colleges Rankings assesses U.S. bachelor’s degree-granting institutions on 17 measures of academic quality. To calculate the rankings, U.S. News focuses on academic quality and places emphasis on outcome measures, including graduation rates, retention rates, graduate indebtedness, and social mobility.

Among its peers on the Best Regional Universities list, the University of Guam has an above-average first-year student retention of 74% and a lower student-to-faculty ratio at 14:1.

» **Gains first-time ranking for ethnic diversity**

First-time placement on diversity ranking

In recognizing studies that show that diversity on college campuses improves intellectual and cultural engagements among students and faculty, U.S. News and World Report publishes a Campus Ethnic Diversity ranking. The list identifies colleges where students are most likely to encounter undergraduates from racial and ethnic groups different from their own.

On a scale of 0 to 1, with 1 being the most diverse, UOG received a diversity index of .55, placing it 57th among Western region universities.

Top performer on social mobility

The “Top Performers on Social Mobility” list measures how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell grants. These students belong to households typically earning less than \$50,000 per year, with most Pell grant households earning less than \$20,000.



The University of Guam is ranked a “Top Performer on Social Mobility,” one of the “Best Regional Universities” in the West, and a “Top Public School” for the third year in a row in the 2022–2023 Best Colleges Rankings of U.S. News & World Report.

Thanksgiving service for the life of Queen Elizabeth II

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Uifa’atali Amata joined Vice President Kamala Harris, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Leader Kevin McCarthy, other members of Congress, and U.S. administration officials in mourning and remembering the late Queen Elizabeth II at the ornate Washington National Cathedral.

The Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Wednesday, Sept. 21, was in partnership with the British Embassy to the United States.

Attending the Service for Queen Elizabeth at Washington National Cathedral with former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and former U.S. Ambassador to Nepal H.E. Julia Chang Bloch.

“Queen Elizabeth II was known as a devout Christian, and she served a record more than 70 years as monarch of the United Kingdom, a close



Congresswoman Uifa’atali Amata attends the service for Queen Elizabeth at Washington National Cathedral.

ally and trusted friend of the United States,” said Aumua Amata. “It was humbling to be at this beautiful service in her memory as the U.S. joins our British friends in honoring her distinguished life. She visited 117 countries including much of the Pacific during her reign.”

The historic Cathedral, officially The Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in the City and Diocese of Washington, is the second largest church building in the nation, on a 57-acre site visited by well over a quarter million people every year. (PR)



University of Guam students celebrate cultural diversity at a Micronesian Culture and Traditions Day festival hosted by the UOG Residence Halls on April 22, 2022, in the parking lot of the Calvo Field House. The University of Guam received a first-time placement this year on the Campus Ethnic Diversity rankings by U.S. News and World Report, which cites that diversity on college campuses improves intellectual and cultural engagements among students and faculty.

uog

UOG has a high percentage of students receiving the Pell grant—46% compared to an average of 41% among other universities that made the social mobility list — and graduates a high number of its Pell recipients within six years.

UOG’s placements in the 2022-2023 Best Colleges Rankings can be viewed at www.usnews.com/colleges. (PR)

Tsubakifest paired with October Staycation promotion

TUMON, Guam—The Tsubaki Tower announced its new Fall food festival, called Tsubakifest, themed Friday dinners at Casa Oceano in October. The resort paired the festival with an indulgent resident staycation package, which can be booked now.

The Tsubaki Tower will offer themed dinners each Friday in October at Casa Oceano, the resort’s all-day restaurant. The cost is \$80 for adults and \$48 for children (ages 6-11), plus a 10% service fee.

Joel Davis, assistant general manager at The Tsubaki Tower, said, “We are thrilled to bring back our themed dinner events in October at Casa Oceano through our Tsubakifest events. Our guests truly enjoy dinner at Casa Oceano, because our delicious, free-flowing wines enhance the experience. Casa Oceano is fast becoming the island’s favorite dinner spot to enjoy new and delicious wines.”

According to Davis, the Casa Oceano menu will change each Friday, and guests can expect all-you-can-drink Japanese sake to accompany the Japanese dinner on Oct. 7; French wines to complement the French-themed dinner on Oct. 14; Spanish wines to pair with Spanish dishes on Oct. 21; and South American wines to enhance the flavors of the South American cuisine on Oct. 28. Detailed menus will be available on The Tsubaki Tower’s Facebook and Instagram pages (@thetsubakitower).

To further enhance the experience, The Tsubaki Tower combined the Tsubakifest event with its October Staycation package. Guests can now make reservations for their next staycation to coincide with the food festival on Fridays in October.

Each October staycation package includes a one-night stay and Tsubakifest dinner for two at Casa Oceano:

Camellia Room Package (\$370 + 11% tax) Camellia Club Package (\$470 + 11% tax) All Club rooms and suites include Club Lounge benefits. Rooms are limited.

Wine Wednesdays at La Cantina to end on Sept. 28

The Tsubaki Tower will host its final Wine Wednesdays promotion at La Cantina, the resort’s wine bar on the 27th floor. The last Wine Wednesday event is scheduled for Sept. 28 and will offer a 50% discount on select wine bottles. This promotion cannot be combined with other discounts.

La Cantina, which means “wine cave” in Italian, has become a favorite spot for the island’s wine enthusiasts. With its expansive menu of premium and hard-to-find labels from around the world, La Cantina also boasts an elegant setting with spectacular views of the island, Tumon Bay, and Guam’s famous sunsets over the Pacific Ocean.

La Cantina also offers inventive cocktails, premium spirits, and beers, and live music completes the experience. La Cantina is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5pm to 10pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 5pm to 11pm (hours may be subject to change).

The Tsubaki Tower team is ready to receive reservations or answer questions about Wine Wednesdays, Tsubakifest at Casa Oceano, or the Tsubakifest Staycation pack-

age. Reservations can be made by phone at 671-969-5200.

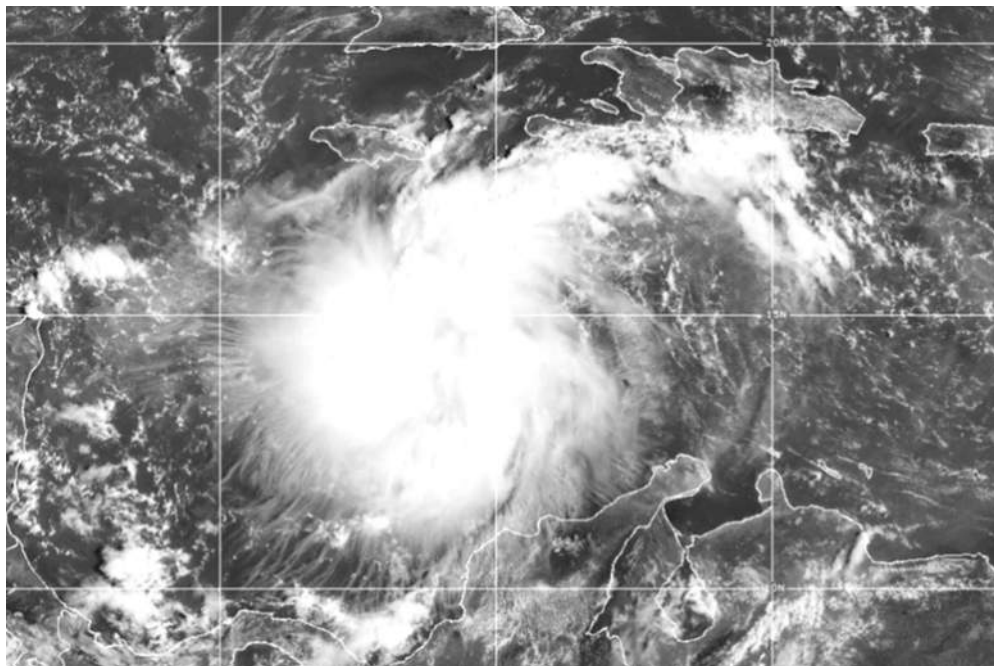
The Tsubaki Tower is Guam’s newest luxury resort experience. The Tsubaki Tower’s mission is to be an authentic ambassador of Guam’s culture, natural beauty, and unique history. Located along the shores of stunning Gun Beach, the 27-story resort will offer guests panoramic views of Guam’s famous sunsets and the warm blues of the Pacific Ocean. The resort is nestled in the northern part of Tumon Bay and features 340 breathtaking oceanfront rooms and suites, all within walking distance of Guam’s most beautiful white-sand beaches and a world-class marine preserve. The resort features two types of dining, three types of bars, a lobby lounge, deli, club lounge, swimming pools, garden plaza, multifunction room, and a chapel in the sky. For further information about The Tsubaki Tower visit tsubakitower.premierhotel-group.com/guam/ or engage with them on Instagram and Facebook (@thetsubakitower).

Premier Hotel Group has been managing hotels for more than 15 years. PHG is a member of Ken Corporation Group, a pioneer in the high-end real estate rental market in metropolitan areas. Currently, PHG owns and operates a total of 32 hotels – 23 properties throughout major cities in Japan, such as Tokyo, Osaka, and Okinawa, and nine hotels in Guam, Saipan, and the U.S. in collaboration with several international hotel chains. For more information about Premier Hotel Group, visit premierhotel-group.com/eng/. (PR)

» Final 50% Off Wine Wednesday event at La Cantina on Sept. 28

Nation

Florida emergency declared as Tropical Storm Ian strengthens



This satellite image provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows Tropical Storm Ian over the central Caribbean on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022. NOAA VIA AP

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency for all of Florida on Saturday as Tropical Storm Ian gained strength over the Caribbean and was forecast to become a major hurricane soon on a track toward the state.

DeSantis had initially issued the emergency order for two dozen counties on Friday. But he expanded the warning to the entire state, urging residents to prepare for a storm that could lash large swaths of Florida.

“This storm has the potential to strengthen into a major hurricane and we encourage all Floridians to make their preparations,” DeSantis said in a statement. “We are coordinat-

ing with all state and local government partners to track potential impacts of this storm.”

President Joe Biden also declared an emergency for the state, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, to coordinate disaster relief efforts and provide assistance to protect lives and property. The president postponed a scheduled Sept. 27 trip to Florida due to the storm.

The National Hurricane Center said Ian was forecast to strengthen before moving over western Cuba and toward the west coast of Florida and the Florida Panhandle by the middle of next week.

The agency said Floridians should have hurricane plans in place and advised residents to monitor updates of the storm’s evolving path.

Ian was expected to become a hurricane Sunday and a major hurricane as soon as late Monday. The storm had top sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph) Saturday night as it swirled about 395 miles (630 kilometers) southeast of Grand Cayman, in the Cayman Islands.

A hurricane warning was in effect for the island, and hurricane watches were issued for western Cuba.

“Ian forecast to begin rapidly intensifying,” the hurricane center reported.

program of a half-century ago. Hydrogen fuel leaks and other technical issues caused the previous scrubs. Currently churning in the Caribbean, Tropical Storm Ian is expected to become a hurricane by Monday and slam into Florida’s Gulf coast by Thursday. The entire state, however, is in the cone showing the probable path of the storm’s center—including NASA’s Kennedy Space Center.

‘We got our miracle’: Freed Americans back home in Alabama

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—Two U.S. military veterans who disappeared three months ago while fighting with Ukrainian forces against Russia arrived home to Alabama on Saturday, greeted by hugs, cheers and tears of joy at the state’s main airport. Alex Drueke, 40, and Andy Huynh, 27, had gone missing June 9 in the Kharkiv region of northeastern Ukraine near the Russian border. The Alabama residents were released as part of a prisoner exchange. The pair had traveled to Ukraine on their own and bonded over their shared home state. “It’s them!” a family member shouted as the pair appeared at the top of an escalator at the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport in Birmingham, one of Alabama’s largest cities.

World

Russian police arrest hundreds, prevent mobilization protests

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian police moved quickly Saturday to disperse peaceful protests against President Vladimir Putin’s military mobilization order, arresting hundreds, including some children, in scores of cities across the vast country.

Police detained nearly 750 people, including over 370 in Moscow and some 150 in St. Petersburg, according to OVD-Info, an independent website that monitors political arrests in Russia. Some of the arrested individuals were minors, OVD-Info said.

The demonstrations followed protests that erupted within hours Wednesday after Putin, in a move to beef up his volunteer forces fighting in Ukraine, announced a call-up of experienced and skilled army reservists.

The Defense Ministry said about 300,000 people would be summoned to active duty, but the order left

a door open to many more getting called into service. Most Russian men ages 18-65 are automatically counted as reservists.

On Saturday, police deployed in force in the cities where protests were scheduled by opposition group Vesna and supporters of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny. They moved quickly to arrest demonstrators, most of them young people, before they could hold protests.

In Moscow, a heavy contingent of police roamed a downtown area where a protest was planned under pouring rain and checked the IDs of passersby. Officers rounded up those they deemed suspicious and later distributed call-up summons to the men who were arrested.

A young woman climbed on a bench and shouted “We aren’t cannon fodder!” before police took her away.

Police detained a man in a park just outside Red

Square and whisked him away as others shouted “Shame!”

Before being rounded up in St. Petersburg, a small group of demonstrators managed to briefly march along the main Nevsky avenue shouting “Putin into the trenches!”

In the city of Novosibirsk in eastern Siberia, over 70 people were detained after singing an innocuous Soviet-era song praising peace.

People who tried to hold individual pickets that are allowed under Russian law also were detained.

The quick police action followed the dispersal of Wednesday’s protests, when over 1,300 people were detained on Wednesday in Moscow, St. Petersburg and other cities.

Putin on Saturday signed a hastily approved bill that toughens the punishment for soldiers who disobey officers’ orders, desert or surrender to the enemy.

WORLD BRIEFS

China on Taiwan: ‘External interference’ won’t be tolerated

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—China underscored its commitment Saturday to its claim on Taiwan, telling assembled world leaders that anyone who gets in the way of its determination to reunify with the self-governing island would be “crushed by the wheels of history.” The language was forceful but, for Chinese leadership, well within the realm of normal. “Only when China is fully reunified can there be true peace across the Taiwan Strait,” Wang Yi, China’s foreign minister, said at the U.N. General Assembly. He said Beijing would “take the most forceful steps to oppose external interference.” China regularly and vehemently defends its claim to Taiwan, which separated from the mainland after a 1949 civil war and now functions with its own government. A visit last month by the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, markedly ratcheted up tensions between Washington and Beijing.

Fiona sweeps away houses, knocks out power in eastern Canada

TORONTO (AP)—Fiona washed houses into the sea, tore the roofs off others and knocked out power to the vast majority of two Canadian provinces as it made landfall before dawn Saturday as a big, powerful post-tropical cyclone. Fiona transformed from a hurricane into a post-tropical storm late Friday, but it still had hurricane-strength winds and brought drenching rains and huge waves. There was no confirmation of fatalities or injuries. Ocean waves pounded the town of Channel-Port Aux Basques on the southern coast of New-

foundland, where entire structures were washed into the sea. Mayor Brian Button said Saturday over social media that people were being evacuated to high ground as winds knocked down power lines. “I’m seeing homes in the ocean. I’m seeing rubble floating all over the place. It’s complete and utter destruction. There’s an apartment that is gone,” René J. Roy, a resident of Channel-Port Aux Basques and chief editor at Wreckhouse Press, said in a phone interview.

South Korea says North Korea test-fired missile toward sea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile Sunday toward its eastern seas, extending a provocative streak in weapons testing as a U.S. aircraft carrier visits South Korea for joint military exercises in response to the North’s growing nuclear threat. South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile launched from the western inland town of Taechon flew 600 kilometers (370 miles) cross-country on a maximum altitude of 60 kilometers (37 miles) before landing in waters off North Korea’s eastern coast. South Korea’s presidential office said National Security Director Kim Sung-han called an emergency National Security Council meeting where members denounced the launch as a clear violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and accused the North of raising tensions in the region. The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said the launch did not pose an “immediate threat to U.S. personnel or territory, or to our allies,” but still highlighted the destabilizing impact of North Korea’s illicit nuclear weapons and missile programs.

ACROSS THE NATION

US spy satellite launched into orbit from California

VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)—A classified satellite for the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office launched into orbit aboard a United Launch Alliance Delta 4 Heavy rocket on Saturday. The NROL-91 spy satellite lifted off at 3:25 p.m. from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California’s Santa Barbara County. It was the last launch of a Delta 4 from the West Coast. Additional launches are planned from Florida before the Deltas are replaced by ULA’s next-generation Vulcan Centaur rockets. The Delta IV Heavy configuration first launched in December 2004. This was the 387th flight of a Delta rocket since 1960 and the 95th and final launch from Vandenberg.

NASA delays moon rocket launch due to potential hurricane

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA is skipping next week’s launch attempt of its new moon rocket because of a tropical storm that’s expected to become a major hurricane. It’s the third delay in the past month for the lunar-orbiting test flight featuring mannequins but no astronauts, a follow-up to NASA’s Apollo moon-landing

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



4.4M Americans roll up sleeves for omicron-targeted boosters

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
AP MEDICAL WRITER

U.S. health officials say 4.4 million Americans have rolled up their sleeves for the updated COVID-19 booster shot. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted the count Thursday as public health experts bemoaned President Joe Biden's recent remark that "the pandemic is over."

The White House said more than 5 million people received the new boosters by its own estimate that accounts for reporting lags in states.

Health experts said it is too early to predict whether demand would match up with the 171 million doses of the new boosters the U.S. ordered for the fall.

"No one would go looking at our flu shot uptake at this point and be like, 'Oh, what a disaster,'" said Dr. David Dowdy, an infectious disease epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. "If we start to see a large uptick in cases, I think we're going to see a lot of people getting the (new COVID) vaccine."

A temporary shortage of Moderna vaccine caused some pharmacies to cancel appointments while encouraging people to reschedule for a Pfizer vaccine. The issue was expected to resolve

as government regulators wrapped up an inspection and cleared batches of vaccine doses for distribution.

"I do expect this to pick up in the weeks ahead," said White House COVID-19 coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha. "We've been thinking and talking about this as an annual vaccine like the flu vaccine. Flu vaccine season picks up in late September and early October. We're just getting our education campaign going. So we expect to see, despite the fact that this was a strong start, we actually expect this to ramp up stronger."

Some Americans who plan to get the shot, designed to target the most common omicron strains, said they are waiting because they either had COVID-19 recently or another booster. They are following public health advice to wait several months to get the full benefit of their existing virus-fighting antibodies.

Others are scheduling shots closer to holiday gatherings and winter months when respiratory viruses spread more easily.

Retired hospital chaplain Jeanie Murphy, 69, of Shawnee, Kansas, plans to get the new booster in a couple of weeks after she has some minor knee surgery. Interest is high among her neighbors from what she sees on the Nextdoor app.



Booster shots of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine are displayed during a vaccine clinic in Townshend, Vt., on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022. AP

"There's quite a bit of discussion happening among people who are ready to make appointments," Murphy said. "I found that encouraging. For every one naysayer there will be 10 or 12 people who jump in and say, 'You're crazy. You just need to go get the shot.'"

Biden later acknowledged criticism of his remark about the pandemic being over and clarified the pandemic is "not where it was." The initial comment didn't bother Murphy. She believes the disease has entered a steady state when "we'll get COVID shots in

the fall the same as we do flu shots."

Experts hope she's right, but are waiting to see what levels of infection winter brings. The summer ebb in case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths may be followed by another surge, Dowdy said.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, asked Thursday by a panel of biodefense experts what still keeps him up at night, noted that half of vaccinated Americans never got an initial booster dose.

"We have a vulnerability in our population that will continue to have us in a mode of potential

disruption of our social order," Fauci said. "I think that we have to do better as a nation."

Some Americans who got the new shots said they are excited about the idea of targeting the vaccine to the variants circulating now.

"Give me all the science you can," said Jeff Westling, 30, an attorney in Washington, D.C., who got the new booster and a flu shot on Tuesday, one in each arm. He participates in the combat sport jujitsu, so wants to protect himself from infections that may come with close contact. "I have no issue trusting folks whose job it is to look at the evidence."

Meanwhile, Biden's pronouncement in a "60 Minutes" interview broadcast Sunday echoed through social media.

Fight to end virus pandemic takes place on UN's sidelines

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—In four days of fiery speeches over war, climate change and the threat of nuclear weapons, one issue felt like an afterthought during this year's U.N. General Assembly: the coronavirus pandemic.

Masks were often pulled below chins—or not worn at all—and any mention of COVID-19 by world leaders typically came at the tail-end of a long list of grievances.

But on the sidelines of the annual meeting, the pandemic was still very much part of the conversation.

On Thursday, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres gathered with World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell and others to discuss equitable access to COVID vaccines, tests and treatments.

And earlier that day, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Linda Thomas-Greenfield joined leaders from around the globe to mark the progress that has been made to fight COVID-19—including the more than 620 million vaccine doses to 116 countries and economies that the United States has provided. But she emphasized there is still much work to do.

Tedros noted that the number of deaths around the globe is near its lowest since the pandemic began, and two-thirds of the world's population is vaccinated. But the encouraging

signs mask a deep disparity between wealthy and poor countries.

For instance, only 19% of people living in low-income countries are fully vaccinated compared with 75% in high-income countries. And only 35% of health care workers and 31% of older populations in lower-income countries are fully vaccinated and boosted.

Key to closing those gaps, according to Guterres, is countering misinformation about vaccines and overcoming hesitancy while also increasing testing to snuff out the potential for more variants. The world also needs early warning systems for pandemics and must ensure a well-paid and well-supplied workforce in the health care sector.

"Let's get it done," Guterres said. "Let's end this pandemic once and for all."

Thomas-Greenfield said that COVID-19 care needs to be shifted from being offered primarily in emergency facilities to integrating it in routine services.

She outlined three new initiatives: a pilot program to be launched in 10 countries to help people get screened for COVID-19 and receive antiviral medications; a \$50 million commitment from the U.S. to improve access to medical oxygen critical for treating patients with severe cases; and a global clearinghouse to make medical supply chains more resilient, efficient and equitable.

Pakistan battles disease surge as flood deaths surpass 1,600

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan deployed thousands more doctors and medics to battle the outbreak of disease as the death toll from the unprecedented floods that have gripped the country this summer surpassed 1,600 on Friday, officials said.

The disaster management agency said 10 more people had died from the floods in the past 24 hours—four in Sindh, the worst-hit province in the deluge, and six in Baluchistan province—bringing the overall number of fatalities to 1,606 across Pakistan.

In Sindh, where thousands of makeshift medical camps for flood survivors have been set up, the National Disaster Management Authority said outbreaks of a spate of illnesses such as typhoid, malaria and dengue fever have killed at least 300 of the flood victims.

Some of the doctors who refused to work in Sindh province have been fired by the government, according to the provincial health department. Floods have killed 728 people, including 313 children and 134 women in the



Pakistani patients suffering from dengue fever, a mosquito-borne disease, are treated in an isolation ward, at a hospital in Lahore, Pakistan, Friday, Sept. 23, 2022. AP

province since July.

The monsoon rains and flooding, which many experts say are fueled by climate change, have also affected 33 million people and destroyed or damaged 2 million homes across Pakistan. About half a million flood survivors are homeless, living in tents and makeshift structures.

Over the past two months, Pakistan sent nearly 10,000 doctors, nurses and other medical staff to tend to survivors in across Sindh. About 18,000

doctors and nearly 38,000 paramedics are treating survivors in the province, according to the latest data from the health department.

Floods have also damaged more than 1,000 health facilities in Sindh, forcing some survivors to travel to other areas to seek medical help.

Waterborne and other diseases in the past two months have killed 334 flood victims, authorities said. The death toll prompted the World Health Organization last week to raise the

alarm about a "second disaster," with doctors on the ground racing to battle outbreaks.

Some floodwaters in Pakistan have receded, but many districts in Sindh are still submerged, and displaced people living in tents and makeshift camps face the threat of gastrointestinal infections, dengue fever and malaria, which are on the rise amid stagnant waters.

Also Friday in Sindh, teams of fumigators fanned out across flood-hit areas, spraying in an effort to keep mosquitos at bay and prevent further outbreaks of dengue fever and malaria. Over 134,000 cases of diarrhea and 44,000 cases of malaria were reported in the hardest-hit areas of Sindh this past week.

Dengue fever is also on the rise, especially in Karachi, the provincial capital, where health teams were spraying insecticide onto puddles of water in the streets.

The devastation has led the United Nations to consider sending more money than it committed during its flash appeal for \$160 million to support Pakistan's flood response.

Life & Style

Bargain hunter scores 700-year-old medieval times document

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—A bargain hunter who went to an estate sale in Maine to find a KitchenAid mixer, a bookshelf or vintage clothing walked away with a 700-year-old treasure.

Instead of a kitchen appliance, Will Sideri stumbled upon a framed document hanging on a wall. It had elaborate script in Latin, along with musical notes and gold flourishes. A sticker said 1285 AD. Based on what he'd seen in a manuscripts class at Colby College, the document looked downright medieval.

And it was a bargain at \$75.

Academics confirmed the parchment was from The Beau-

vais Missal, used in the Beauvais Cathedral in France, and dated to the late 13th century. It was used about 700 years ago in Roman Catholic worship, they said.

An expert on manuscripts said the document, first reported by the Maine Monitor, could be worth as much as \$10,000.

After spying the unusual manuscript, Sideri contacted his former Colby College professor, who was familiar with it because there's another page in the college collection. The professor reached out to another academic who'd researched the document. They quickly con-

firmed the authenticity.

The parchment was part of a prayer book and priests' liturgy, said Lisa Fagin Davis, executive director of the Medieval Academy of America and a professor of manuscript studies at Simmons University in Boston.

The full missal was once owned by William Randolph Hearst, the newspaper publisher, before being sold in the 1940s and, much to the consternation of today's academics, was divided up into individual pages, she said.

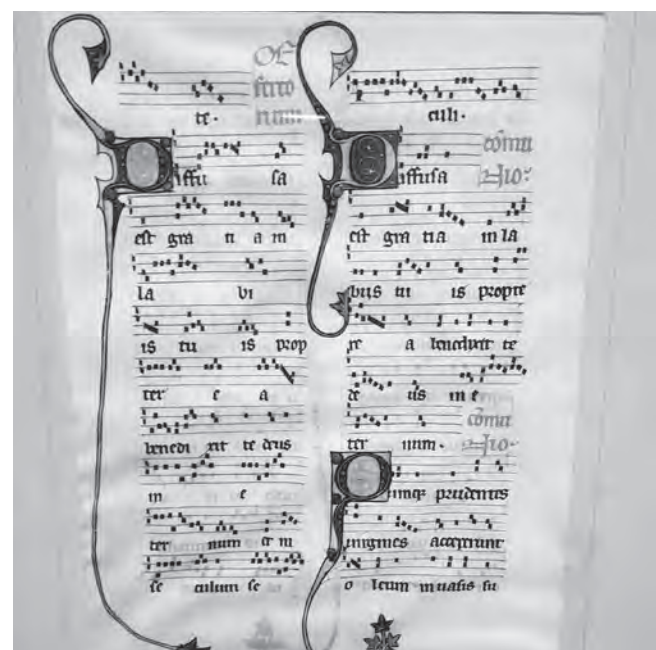
The practice was common in the early 20th century. "Thou-

sands of unique manuscripts were destroyed and scattered this way," Davis said.

Davis has painstakingly researched The Beauvais Missal, and has tracked down more than 100 individual pages across the country. All told, the missal numbered 309 pages in its original form.

The page purchased by Sideri is of particular interest to scholars.

It's a treasure both because of its age and condition, which is far better than the other page in the Colby collection, said Megan Cook, Sideri's former professor, who teaches medieval literature at Colby.



AP
This photo provided by Will Sideri shows a 700-year-old manuscript that was used in the Beauvais Cathedral in France. Sideri bought the medieval manuscript for \$75 at an estate sale on Sept. 3, 2022, in Waterville, Maine.

Alex Jones testifies in trial over his Sandy Hook hoax lies

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP)—Alex Jones took the stand Thursday at his Connecticut defamation trial, acknowledging he had promoted the conspiracy theory that the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre was a hoax, but angrily refusing to keep apologizing for that.

More than a dozen relatives of the 26 shooting victims showed up to observe his often contentious testimony in Waterbury Superior Court, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) from Newtown,

where the shooting occurred.

Jones was found liable last year by default for damages to plaintiffs without a trial, for what the judge called his repeated failures to turn over documents to their lawyers. The six-member jury is now deciding how much Jones and Free Speech Systems, parent of Jones' Infowars media platforms,



Jones

should pay the families for defaming them and intentionally inflicting emotional distress.

On Thursday, Jones admitted calling parents "crisis actors" on his show and saying the shooting was "phony as a three-

dollar bill."

Plaintiff attorney Christopher Mattei accused Jones of putting targets on the parents' backs, as studio recordings and released as her Grammy-winning self-titled debut album in 1963.

Streisand kept the recordings in her personal collection and she approved the release after engineer Jochem van der Saag used technology to improve their quality, according to a news release. The

pointing to the family members in the courtroom and saying "these are real people."

"Just like all the Iraqis you liberals killed and love," Jones responded. "Just, you're unbelievable. You switch on emotions, on-and-off when you want. You're just ambulance chasing."

"Why don't you show a little respect?" Mattei shot back, as Jones' lawyer, Norm Pattis, shouted objections and several family members shook their heads in apparent disbelief.

Early Streisand nightclub recording remastered for release

NEW YORK (AP)—A series of 1962 performances by Barbra Streisand at a Manhattan nightclub before she became a superstar have been remastered and will be released this fall.

"Barbra Streisand—Live at the Bon Soir" features songs from a three night stint at the Bon Soir nightclub in Green-

wich Village. The singer-actor's sessions led to her first record deal. Columbia Records and Legacy Recordings announced Friday that the remastered sessions would be released on Nov. 4.

The performances were intended to become Streisand's first album, but instead many of the songs were redone

as studio recordings and released as her Grammy-winning self-titled debut album in 1963.

Streisand kept the recordings in her personal collection and she approved the release after engineer Jochem van der Saag used technology to improve their quality, according to a news release. The

nightclub's acoustics were not meant for professional recording, but modern techniques allowed van der Saag to separate Streisand's vocals from the instrument sounds.

The release will allow listeners "to witness 20-year old Streisand at the dawn of her unparalleled career," Friday's announcement said.

Colleague's abuse of sick leave has come to a head

DEAR ABBY: My co-worker takes advantage of our employer's generous sick leave policy and calls in sick frequently. She will return the next day with no outward sign of illness and has, on several occasions, returned with a fresh haircut and manicure. When she's at work, she frequently steps away from her desk for personal calls.

I finally said something to our supervisor because I feel taken advantage of. Having worked in this office for more than 10 years, I know the work inside and out, so I can do my work—and hers—with ease. I actually like my co-worker, but I feel she's taking me for granted. Our supervisor had a talk with her, but it didn't help. Would it be unreasonable for me to have a frank discussion with her directly? I foresee that it may cause a cool reception, but I'm losing patience.

CO-WORKER CONUNDRUM

DEAR CO-WORKER: It's not unreasonable to speak with this co-worker, but what have you to gain by confronting her and what do you have to lose? If it will cause a frostier work environment, don't do it. A better solution would be to STOP DOING HER WORK FOR HER. Having to face the consequences of slacking may give her an incentive to change her ways.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband of many years is lovely and sweet every morning, but after drinking, which he does every

day starting at 4 or 5 o'clock, his personality changes. I have to be extremely careful of every word I say or I will be the recipient of his sarcasm and/or anger, so I'm anxious and worried every evening until he goes to sleep, which, fortunately, is very early.

In the morning he expects me to be happy and cheerful as if nothing went on the night before. I have tried to discuss this with him, but it doesn't help. After years of this, I have become depressed and would really appreciate your advice.

AT WITS' END IN FLORIDA

DEAR AT WITS' END: You are married to an alcoholic. Marriage to a verbally abusive alcoholic would make anybody depressed! I can only wonder why you have chosen to tolerate this for so long.

The path toward a solution to your problem would start with locating the nearest Al-Anon meeting and attending some of them. If you do, you will find the support and help you are looking for. You can find a nearby meeting by visiting al-anon.org/info.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have a handyman doing work on my home. I noticed that when he uses the bathroom, he is in there a while and going number two. My anxiety levels are through the roof. Do I tell him anything, and what should I say?

NERVOUS LADY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR LADY: May I share a truism? When we gotta go, we gotta go. If your handyman leaves the bathroom in the same condition when he exits as when he goes in there, you have nothing to be "anxious" about. Be gracious, and when you need a handyman there will always be someone willing to help you.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



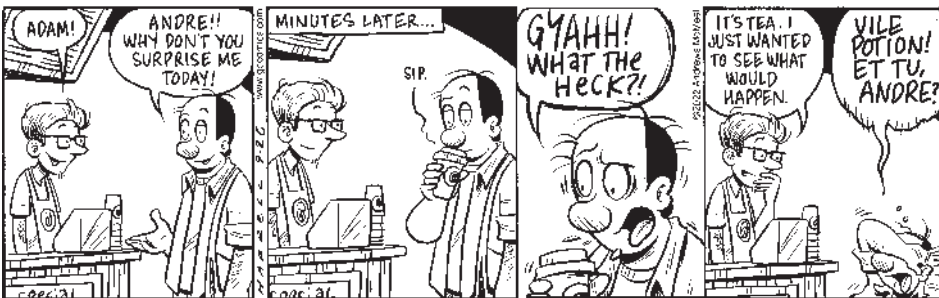
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



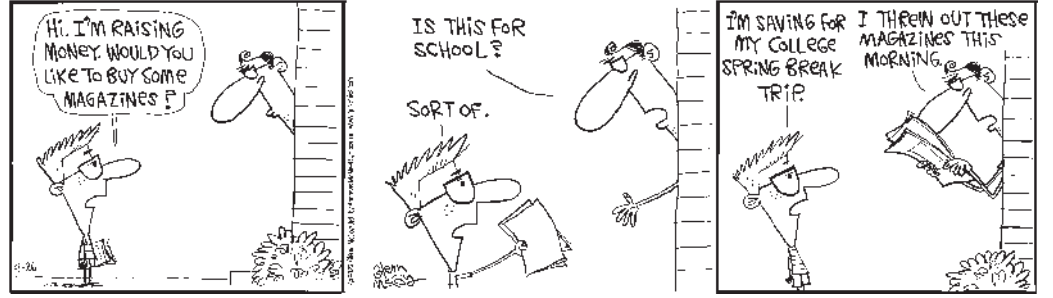
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

43 German article

44 Online auction site

46 River of Rome

50 Pottery oven

53 Ref singer

55 Gospel singer

56 On the rocks

57 Mac alter-natives

58 Ninny

59 Little lice

60 Consume

61 Helium, for one

DOWN

1 Yield

19 River blocker

21 — pickle

23 Mother's Day month

25 Lay — the line

26 Didi of "Grease"

27 New Age singer

28 Booty

29 Asta's caretaker

30 Tolkien villains

31 Up-to-date

35 Pink

38 Society newbie

40 Court divider

42 Hosiery shade

45 Gym site, for short

47 Ship's jail

48 Austen novel

49 Knocks

50 Family

51 Here, in Dijon

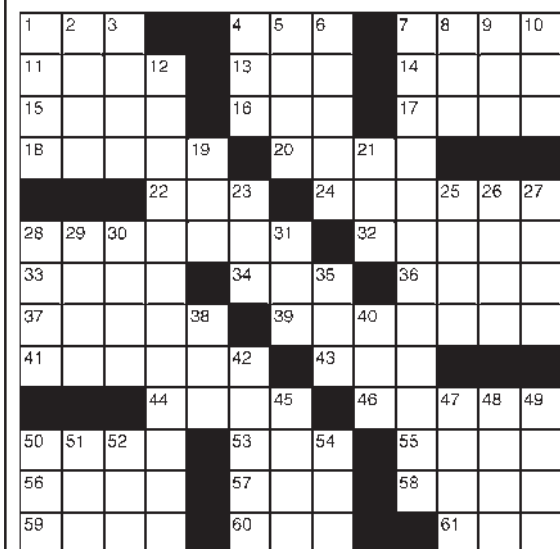
52 Allow

54 Calif. clock setting

Solution time: 26 mins.

C	E	D	S	S	E	T	L	I	D
P	L	E	A	T	U	V	A	A	N
U	M	B	R	A	D	E	B	A	C
A	L	I	S	O	N	M	E	E	T
P	O	T	D	A	K	J	U	S	T
A	L	E	C	T	T	U	B	E	S
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C	O	R	G	D	E	A	L		
A	B	B	E	E	R	N	S	B	E
L	E	A	R	M	A	T	A	I	
D	E	B	O	R	A	H	A	R	T
A	I	S	S	E	H	A	T	I	E
S	S	S	G	E	M	A	D	E	S

Last Friday's Answer 09/26



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Talulah Riley, 37; Christina Milian, 41; Serena Williams, 41; Jim Caviezel, 54.

Happy Birthday: Surround yourself with like-minded people this year, and together you will make things happen. Check out something that interests you that will also encourage better health and a brighter future. Focus on perfection, detail and making the world better, not on changes based on greed. Tough decisions will have the biggest impact on your life. Choose wisely. Your numbers are 3, 9, 17, 23, 27, 35, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your all-in attitude will spark enthusiasm in others. Make your voice heard and lay out a plan that offers an opportunity to put your skills to work for you. Ask, and you'll get the help and support you need to forge ahead. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Plan to have a little fun with people who share your interests. A change of heart because of an incident that entails a financial or contractual bond will require more thought and action. Consider the long-term effects before you proceed. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Self-improvement will boost your confidence and encourage you to hone your skills and use them to increase your income. Patience will help you stay on track and recognize what you truly want to achieve. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotional disagreements will leave you in a confused state of mind. Try to get along and find a way to compromise to avoid wasting time

and falling short when it's essential to get things done on time. A unique idea will bring high returns. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Live and learn. Keep your eyes wide open and observe what's going on around you. Don't feel compelled to make a move because someone prompts you to be a follower. Come up with ideas, be resourceful and focus on your needs. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Utilize a financial plan, and make your money work for you. Think big, but keep your goals simple and cost-effective. Consider your options and discuss your plans with those impacted the most by your actions. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Gather information and incorporate what you learn into your daily routine. Strive for something that leads to happiness, and choose to spend more time with people you love. Don't give in to something you don't like or want to pursue. Follow your passion. ***

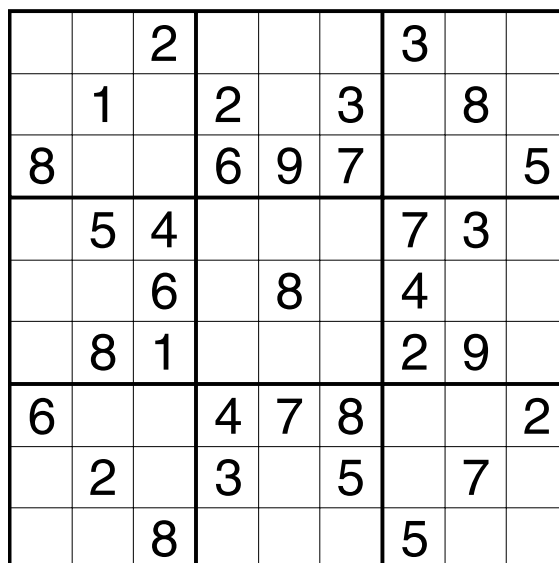
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be demonstrative, choose descriptive words and make your point, and you'll fetch the support you require to get what you want. Patience coupled with a good idea will lead to unexpected opportunities. Relationship uncertainty will prevail if you neglect to discuss the problem. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Rely on those you know and trust, not outsiders feeding you false information. Carry out your plans with transparency, precision and detail. Stick to standards by keeping things simple. Too much of anything will turn into overkill. ****

SUDOKU

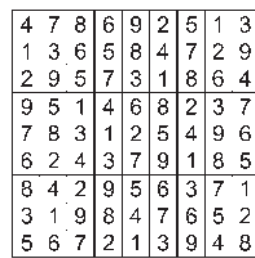
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

9/26

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Research will pay off. Leave nothing to chance, and refuse to let emotional situations sway your opinion. Leave well enough alone. Being imprudent will weigh you down emotionally and cost you financially. Look inward and focus on self-improvement. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put more time and effort into money matters and doing your best to stretch a dollar. Put more thought into your investments, and consider incorporating a moderate lifestyle that offers less stress and more time to do things you enjoy. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Finish what you start before you move on to something new. Pay attention to relationships, and take care of problems before they become irreversible. Arguing is not the answer; taking action will help you keep the peace. ***

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, magnetic and insightful. You are energetic and helpful.

☉: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☿: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ♋: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ♊: Aim high; start new projects. ♏: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle: — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICHES

Solution: 7 letters



Accessory, Arrange, Cabinet, Carpet, Casual, Chair, Clean, Coat, Collection, Color, Container, Coordinate, Divider, Dresser, Fashion, Fold, Formal, Furniture, Gown, Handbag, Hanger, Hats, Interior, Island, Jeans, Level, Lights, Mirror, Open, Order, Purse, Robe, Season, Section, Shoes, Size, Skirt, Sort, Space, Storage, Style, Tops, Vest, Wall, Wood

Last Friday's Answer: Exhaling

The NEW Volume 69 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Brissett, Browns rebound from collapse, beat Steelers, 29-17



CLEVELAND (AP)—An unimaginable collapse still fresh in their minds, the Browns managed to avoid a second one in four days.

Jacoby Brissett threw two touchdown passes, Nick Chubb ran for a score and Cleveland bounced back from its epic meltdown by finishing off the rival Pittsburgh Steelers 29-17 on Thursday night.

"We had the right men in that room to be able to get past it," Brissett said, "and I think we answered that call. We knew it wasn't going to be easy. The guys answered the bell."

The Browns (2-1) built a nine-point lead early in the fourth on Chubb's 1-yard run and then held on for dear life.

The Steelers (1-2) pulled within 23-17 on Chris Boswell's 34-yard field goal with 1:48 left before Pittsburgh attempted an onside kick. But unlike in Sunday's 31-30 loss, when the New York Jets overcame a 13-point deficit in the final 1:55 helped by a recovery, the Browns batted the ball out of bounds.

For a split second, it looked like Sunday all over again.

Browns coach Kevin Stefanski was asked what he was



Cleveland Browns quarterback Jacoby Brissett follows through on an 11-yard touchdown pass to Amari Cooper during the first half of the team's NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Cleveland, Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022.

thinking as the ball bounced around near Pittsburgh's sideline. He paused for six seconds before answering.

"A lot," he said.

Cleveland fans could finally exhale when cornerback Denzel Ward fell on a Steelers fumble in the end zone on the final play for a

meaningless touchdown.

Brissett connected with Amari Cooper and David Njoku for TDs, and finished 21 of 31 for 220 yards. The

29-year-old had his second straight solid game as he fills in while Deshaun Watson serves an 11-game suspension.

Chubb had 113 yards and pushed and twisted across the goal line on fourth-and-goal with 9:29 left to put the Browns ahead 23-14.

Mitch Trubisky and the Steelers' stagnant offense showed signs of life in the first half, but bogged down after halftime, punting on their first three possessions while gaining just 54 yards.

Criticized for not throwing deep the first two weeks, Trubisky launched a few long balls but didn't connect nearly enough.

"I think Mitch made some plays, but we all collectively came up short," said Steelers coach Mike Tomlin, who said he has no plans to switch to rookie QB Kenny Pickett. "Winning is our business. I wasn't looking to be impressed, I was looking to win the game."

Pittsburgh's defense is missing star end T.J. Watt, but tackle Cameron Heyward said that wasn't the issue.

"When you try to arm-tackle Nick Chubb, he's going to make you pay," Heyward said. "We need to do a lot better."

The win smoothed over a rough few days for Cleveland.

Sunday's debacle was followed by Myles Garrett criticizing fans for booing the Browns as they left the field, and a fan was arrested on charges he threw a plastic

bottle in the direction of owner Jimmy Haslam on the sideline.

But there was little drama this time, just a win over their hated neighbors from Pennsylvania.

"That's not an easy thing to bounce back from," Stefanski said. "We talked about it on Sunday. We talked about it on Monday. What I'm proud of with those guys is you can't let a loss linger, and we won't let this win linger either. But I'm proud of how they responded. You've got to be resilient."

Although there was little time to recover, Garrett was confident the Browns would be able to shake off Sunday's loss.

"I didn't have a doubt in my mind knowing this team and the guys who are on it," he said. "I know everybody was anxious to get back on that field and get that taste out of our mouths and play a complete football game, and that's what we did."

"Everybody did their job and all the teams came together to make it a really special win."

Rookie Cade York's 34-yard field goal gave the Browns a 16-14 lead in the third quarter, when Cleveland lost four players, including starting linebackers Anthony Walker Jr. and Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah, to injuries.

Brissett's 7-yard TD pass to Njoku put the Browns up 13-7 with 8:58 left before halftime. But for the second straight week York missed an extra point.

Trubisky led the Steelers on a 75-yard scoring drive — 51 yards coming on the ground — before the QB rolled right and scored from the 1. Boswell's PAT put Pittsburgh ahead 14-13.

Steelers rookie receiver George Pickens expressed frustration about not getting the ball during a loss to New England last week, saying he was open "90% of the time." He wasn't joking, either.

Trubisky finally hit him with a long ball, but it took a spectacular, one-handed catch by Pickens for a 36-yard gain.

Garrett failed to record a sack and remains just shy of Clay Matthews' team record of 62. The Browns All-Pro defensive end was double-teamed, chipped and was credited with just assisted tackles.

Cavaliers All-Star guards Donovan Mitchell and Darius Garland served as the Browns' honorary captains. Mitchell, recently acquired in a trade from Utah, smashed a fake guitar during pregame festivities.

Rodgers admires Brady, doesn't expect to play until he's 45

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—While Aaron Rodgers has a deep appreciation for what Tom Brady has accomplished during an unparalleled NFL career, he doesn't see himself following the seven-time Super Bowl champion's lead of playing well into his 40s.

"I'll be doing something else. I have a lot of other interests outside the game," Rodgers said, looking ahead to only the fifth head-to-head matchup of teams led by the star quarterbacks, who also are friends off the field.

"Game's been really really good to me. I feel I've given my all to the game," the 38-year-old Rodgers added. "At some point, it'll be time to do something else, and I strongly believe that'll be before 45."

Brady's already won two Super Bowls in his 40s. Less than six weeks after retiring in February, he announced he was returning for a 23rd season to pursue "unfinished business" with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who host Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers on Sunday.

The league's all-time passing leader turned 45 during training camp. What impresses Rodgers most about Brady's longevity is how well he continues to play.

"The consistency where you're still playing at a high

level and there's not the drop-off. Every great player fears turning into a real below-average player on the way out. I don't think anybody wants to really hang on," said Rodgers, who's in his 18th season — all with the Packers.

"Maybe some guys just want to get another year, or they're maybe on a team where they can do a lot less," Rodgers added. "But when you've achieved at a high level for a long time, you try and stay there for as long as you can."

The Packers quarterback has an admirer in Brady, too.

They've met four previous times as starters, with Rodgers' lone victory coming in 2014, when Brady was with the New England Patriots.

"He's an amazing player, has been for a long time. I love watching him play. He's from California, too, so I feel like we've got a little bit of a connection," Brady said. "He's an older guy now. He's been a great player in the same place for a long time."

Tampa Bay is 2-0 against Green Bay since Brady joined the Bucs in 2020, including a 31-26 victory in the NFC championship game two seasons ago.

SHORT-HANDED

The Bucs will play without leading receiver Mike Evans,

who's serving a one-game suspension for his role in an on-field brawl at New Orleans last week. Brady could also be without two other primary targets — Chris Godwin (hamstring) and Julio Jones (knee) — who sat out against the Saints.

"Part of the job is to deal with different people being in. It's part of the demolition derby that's the game we play," Brady said. "Guys are in and out. You've got to adjust."

WATSON'S HOMECOMING

Packers rookie receiver Christian Watson went to Plant High School in Tampa and expects to have plenty of friends and relatives watching him Sunday. The second-round pick from North Dakota State has five catches for 43 yards through his first two games.

This won't be his first time playing at Raymond James Stadium. Watson said he played a youth league game there.

"That was definitely exciting playing as a kid, looking up and wanting to play in the league one day, to be able to play in an NFL stadium, that was really cool," Watson said.

DOMINANT DEFENSE

Tampa Bay is off to a 2-0 start despite Brady not being at his best during victories at

Dallas and New Orleans. He didn't have to be, with the defense limiting the Cowboys to three points and not yielding a touchdown to the Saints until the fourth quarter of a 20-10 victory. The Bucs lead the NFL with 10 sacks and have forced six turnovers.

PROTECTING RODGERS

Rodgers has been sacked seven times this season, which doesn't bode well heading into a game against an opponent with a relentless pass rush.

Although both teams have changed quite a bit in time since, the Bucs beat the Packers twice during the 2020 season — including the NFC championship game — and collected five sacks in each of those wins.

"They definitely like to pressure quite a bit and then they do a great job of getting the ball out," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said. "They're one of the best in the business, always punching at the ball. The guys in the secondary have really good ball skills, so that creates another problem."

Green Bay's offensive line benefited last week from the return of tackle Elgton Jenkins, who was appearing in his first game since tearing his left anterior cruciate ligament last Nov. 21.

Judge remains at 60 homers, but Yankees win again



NEW YORK

(AP)—Aaron Judge went homerless for the fourth straight game and remained one shy of Roger Maris' American League record of 61 as the New York Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox 7-5 on Saturday to close in on their first AL East title since 2019.

Judge was 0 for 3 with two strikeouts and a walk. Since hitting No. 60 to spark a ninth-inning comeback Tuesday night, the slugger is 3 for 13 with two doubles, five walks and six strikeouts.

Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run homer off John Schreiber (3-4) that broke a 5-all tie in the seventh inning. Rizzo equaled his career high, reaching 32 for the fourth time.

The Yankees (93-58) have won six straight and 10 of 12, surpassing last year's wins total and opening an 8 1/2-game division lead with 11 to play.

Xander Bogaerts went 2 for 4 for Boston and took over the AL batting lead with a .315 average to Judge's .314. Judge leads the majors with 128 RBIs and is in contention for the first Triple Crown since Detroit's Miguel Cabrera in 2012.

Oswaldo Cabrera had a two-run homer for the Yankees, and Gleyber Torres hit his 24th of the season.

Triston Casas and Reese McGuire homered for Boston.

Lucas Luetge (4-4) for the win and Scott Effross earned his third save, second with the Yankees.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Alek Manoah pitched seven shutout innings, Whit Merrifield hit a three-run homer and Toronto regained the top AL wild-card spot with a victory over Tampa Bay.

The Blue Jays lead the Rays by one game. The top wild card finisher will host all games in their best-of-three opening-round series, while the other two wild cards play strictly on the road.

Manoah (15-7) scattered four hits, walked two and struck out eight while throwing a season-high 113 pitches. Jordan Romano got four outs for his 35th save in 41 chances.

Tampa Bay starter Drew Rasmussen (10-7) gave up one run and three hits in 6 1/3 innings. Merrifield connected in the seventh off Brooks Raley.

Athletics 10, Mets 4

In Oakland, Calif., Jacob deGrom got hit around and lasted a season-low four innings as New York squandered an early lead and lost to Oakland.

Handed a 3-0 advantage, deGrom (5-3) gave up four runs in the bottom of the first.

He was tagged for five runs and four walks overall — the worst start for the two-time Cy Young Award winner since 2019.

In his last three starts, the right-hander has allowed 11 earned runs in 15 innings. The four walks doubled his previous season total.

The Mets lost for only the second time in nine games. They lead the NL East by 1 1/2 games over reigning World Series champion Atlanta.

Pete Alonso launched his 38th homer for New York, and Mark Vientos hit his first in the majors.

Braves 6, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Kyle Wright became the first 20-game winner in the majors this season and Atlanta beat Philadelphia to stop a three-game losing streak.

William Contreras and rookie Michael Harris II each homered and had three hits for the Braves (94-58), who moved within 1 1/2 games of the first-place Mets in the NL East. The teams play three games in Atlanta next weekend.

Bryce Harper hit a two-run homer for Philadelphia (83-68), which holds the third and final NL wild-card spot by 1 1/2 games over Milwaukee.

The 26-year-old Wright (20-5) went 5 1/3 innings and became the first Braves pitcher to win 20 games since Russ Ortiz won 21 in 2003.

Kenley Jansen earned his 37th save.

Padres 9, Rockies 3

In Denver, Yu Darvish settled in after serving up a leadoff homer and equaled a career high with his 16th win as San Diego climbed into second place in the NL wild-card race by beating Colorado.

Jake Cronenworth and Ha-Seong Kim each had a two-run single as part of a six-run seventh inning that broke open a 3-2 game. The Padres moved a half-game ahead of Philadelphia, with the surging Brewers just 1 1/2 games behind the Phillies for the third and final slot.

Darvish (16-7) struck out eight over six efficient innings to match the win total he set as a rookie with Texas in 2012. He had thrown 16 straight scoreless innings before Ryan McMahon homered on his fourth pitch.

Slumping center fielder Trent Grisham contributed with his glove in the fifth when his diving grab prevented the tying run from scoring.

Guardians 4, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Cal Quantrill won his career-best 10th consecutive decision,



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge reacts after striking out against Boston Red Sox relief pitcher John Schreiber during the seventh inning of a baseball game Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, in New York.

rookie Oscar Gonzalez hit two home runs and Cleveland moved closer to clinching the AL Central by beating Texas.

The streaking Guardians won for the 17th time in 20 games. They can wrap up the division title with one more win or a White Sox loss.

Quantrill (14-6) hasn't lost in 15 starts dating to July 5 while setting a career high for wins. He allowed only Marcus Semien's solo homer in six innings.

Brewers 10, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Hunter Renfroe hit a pair of two-run homers and had a season-high five RBIs against Cincinnati in Milwaukee's fourth straight victory.

Renfroe's shots boosted Milwaukee's homer count against the Reds this season to 42, tied with the 2016 Cubs for the most by any team against Cincinnati in franchise history.

Renfroe tied his career high with four hits in support of Corbin Burnes (11-8). The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner gave up four hits and two runs with eight strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings.

Dodgers 6, Cardinals 2

In Los Angeles, Miguel Vargas hit his first big league home run, Clayton Kershaw won his third straight start and Los Angeles bounced back with a victory over St. Louis.

Will Smith and Trayce Thompson also went deep for the NL West champion Dodgers, who had dropped three of four — including an 11-0 blowout by the Cardinals on Friday night.

St. Louis slugger Albert Pujols went 1 for 4, a night after becoming the fourth player to reach 700 career home runs. Nolan Arenado had a solo shot for the Cardinals, but their NL

Central lead dropped to 6 1/2 games over Milwaukee.

Vargas started at first base after major league batting leader Freddie Freeman was scratched due to illness. With Austin Barnes aboard in the second inning, Vargas homered off Jordan Montgomery (8-6) to make it 4-0.

Mariners 6, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Mo., Cal Raleigh homered and drove in three runs as Seattle rallied past Kansas City.

The Mariners have won two of three after dropping five of six as they try to hold off Baltimore for the third and final AL wild card. They closed to a half-game behind Tampa Bay for the second spot.

With one out in the ninth inning, Jarred Kelenic and Jesse Winker singled ahead of Raleigh's tiebreaking RBI double off Brad Keller (6-14). Raleigh had tied the score 5-5 as a pinch-hitter with his 25th homer, a two-run shot to start the sixth.

Astros 11, Orioles 10

In Baltimore, Yuli Gurriel hit a two-run single to cap a ninth-inning uprising that carried Houston past Baltimore, giving manager Dusty Baker his milestone 100th win of the season.

The AL West champion Astros trailed 9-7 before mounting a four-run rally against closer Félix Bautista (4-4). Kyle Tucker tied it with a two-out RBI double and Gurriel followed with a single.

On the brink of making up ground in the playoff hunt, the Orioles dropped four games behind Seattle for the third and final AL wild card. Both teams have 11 games left.

Baker joined Hall of Famers Sparky Anderson, Tony La Russa and Whitey Herzog

as the only managers in major league history to have 100-win seasons in both leagues. He won 103 games in his 1993 debut with San Francisco.

Anthony Santander hit two home runs for the Orioles, and Cedric Mullins and Rougned Odor also went deep.

Tigers 7, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Javier Báez taunted Chicago fans after hitting a home run, and Detroit pushed the White Sox closer to elimination in the AL Central.

Cleveland has a magic number of one to close out the White Sox to win the division. Before Chicago lost its fifth in a row, the team announced manager Tony La Russa will not return to the dugout this season.

Báez hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning. As he rounded the bases, the former Cubs star held his hand to his ear, stretched out his arms and made a chatter motion as fans booed him.

La Russa, who turns 78 on Oct. 4, had "additional testing and medical procedures over the past week," the team said Saturday. Doctors have directed the Hall of Famer to stay away from managing for the rest of the season.

La Russa left the White Sox before an Aug. 30 game against Kansas City to deal with a heart issue. Chicago is 13-11 under bench coach Miguel Cairo, who will continue as acting White Sox manager.

Báez and Harold Castro each had three hits, including a home run, and three RBIs. Riley Greene also had three hits for the last-place Tigers, who have won four of five.

Twins 8, Angels 4

In Minneapolis, Gary Sánchez drove in four runs, including a

three-run homer in the fifth inning, and Minnesota snapped a five-game losing streak with a win against Los Angeles.

Jose Miranda and Gio Urshela each had three hits for the Twins, who won for only the second time in 10 games. They were eliminated from contention in the AL Central on Friday night.

Pirates 6, Cubs 0

In Pittsburgh, Johan Oviedo tied his career high with seven strikeouts in seven innings, and Pittsburgh blanked Chicago to snap an eight-game losing streak.

Oviedo (4-2) retired his final 16 batters, allowing just three hits on 82 pitches without issuing a walk. The Pirates (56-96) ended Chicago's four-game winning streak, and must win at least seven of their final 10 games to avoid reaching 100 losses for the 10th time.

Pinch-hitter Jack Suwinski launched a three-run homer.

Wade Miley (1-2) exited with left oblique tightness in the fifth. He allowed three runs (one earned) in four-plus innings.

Marlins 4, Nationals 1

In Miami, Sandy Alcantara struck out 11 in eight dominant innings and Miami shut down Washington.

Bryan De La Cruz homered, doubled twice and singled for the Marlins.

The 27-year-old Alcantara (14-8) allowed Joey Meneses' home run in the first and little else. In his 13th start of at least eight innings this season, the All-Star righty gave up three hits, walked one and hit a batter with a pitch.

Dylan Floro closed for his seventh save.

JJ Bleday's two-run single in the first put the Marlins ahead 2-1. De La Cruz connected against Erick Fedde (6-11) leading off the fourth.

Diamondbacks 5, Giants 2

In Phoenix, Merrill Kelly pitched seven strong innings and Arizona ended San Francisco's five-game winning streak.

Kelly (13-7) permitted just four hits and two runs to drop his season ERA to 3.13. He struck out six and walked one.

He is 3-0 against the Giants this season with a 1.53 ERA in five starts. It's possible he could pitch against them again next weekend when the teams meet in San Francisco.

Reyes Moronta worked the ninth for his second save.

Alex Cobb (6-7) lasted five innings, allowing five hits and five earned runs. Mike Yastrzemski homered for the Giants.

Celtics: Udoka suspended for 'multiple' policy violations

BOSTON (AP)—The reigning Eastern Conference champion Boston Celtics suspended coach Ime Udoka after a months-long investigation by an outside law firm that found multiple violations of team policies but did not point to a larger cultural problem of sexual misconduct, owner Wyc Grousbeck said Friday.

"We go to great lengths ... to run the organization with the central core value of respect and freedom in the workplace from harassment or any unwelcome attention," Grousbeck said at a news conference. "This feels very much, to me, like one of a kind. That's my personal belief. But I'll have to verify that."

Neither Grousbeck nor president of basketball operations Brad Stevens would elaborate on the specifics of the violations or the private report that was delivered to the team two days ago. But a person with knowl-

edge of the matter, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the details were not made public, told The Associated Press that it involved an inappropriate relationship with a woman in the organization.

Udoka's multiple violations involved one woman, a Celtics spokesman said Friday. No one else in the organization is facing discipline, Grousbeck said, adding that the team will be vigilant to make sure that Udoka's actions aren't a signal that there is a larger problem.

"I personally don't believe that they're a deeper signal," Grousbeck said. "But we will be — I will be, personally — talking to members of the organization to make sure that that's the case."

A first-year coach who is three months removed from a trip to the NBA Finals, Udoka was suspended less than a week before training camp was to open for a team considered among the favorites to



Boston Celtics owner Wyc Grousbeck, right, and president of basketball operations Brad Stevens leave after speaking during a news conference, Friday, Sept. 23, 2022, in Boston.

win it all this season. Assistant Joe Mazzulla was elevated to interim coach through June 30, 2023; the Celtics say they have not decided about Udoka's future beyond then.

Stevens grew emotional when discussing the effect the scandal has had on the team — especially the women who were singled out on social media as

possibly being involved. The team reached out to employees to offer support.

"We have a lot of talented women in our organization. I thought yesterday was really hard on them," Stevens said. "Nobody can control Twitter speculation, rampant (expletive), but I do think that we as an organization have a respon-

sibility to make sure we're there to support them now. Because a lot of people were dragged unfairly into that."

Grousbeck said the team learned of the problem earlier this summer and immediately brought in an outside law firm to investigate. After receiving the report, Grousbeck met with Udoka and he expressed "acceptance and appreciation for how this has been handled."

Grousbeck would not say whether the suspension was unpaid but confirmed that it comes with a "significant financial penalty." A year-long suspension is uncommon but not unprecedented for a professional sports coach, but the lack of public detail about Udoka's behavior has led some — including Celtics Hall of Famer Paul Pierce — to question whether it was too severe.

Grousbeck disagreed, and noted that Udoka accepted the punishment and apologized.

"I personally feel that this is

well-warranted and appropriate, backed by substantial research and evidence and facts," the owner said. "It was clear that something substantial needed to be done. And it was."

Mazzulla, 34, led West Virginia to a victory in the 2007 NIT tournament and an upset over ninth-ranked Duke in the next year's NCAA's. His only head coaching experience was a two-year stint from 2017-19 at Division II Fairmont State in West Virginia.

"Joe's going to be in charge. It's not easy timing for him or the rest of the staff, but he's an exceptionally sharp and talented person," said Stevens, who added that he gave no serious thought to stepping back onto the bench himself. "This will be an unbelievable challenge, but I'm really confident in the team and the coaching staff that's going to take the court on Tuesday. It's not what we expected to happen, but I'm very confident in them."

TINIAN

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the Saipan Southern High School JV team in three close sets, 22-20, 10-21, 14-16, and the varsity team battled their varsity team and won, 21-15, 21-15.

For the second day of games on Saturday at the MHS Gym, the varsity Lady Stallions quieted their stomp through the court as their varsity team fell against Grace Christian Academy in two sets, 18-21, 12-21 and Agape Christian School, 21-23, 17-21.

The JV Stallions however, did not go home empty-handed as they won one game against the ACS JV, 17-21, 21-19, 15-7, after losing to GCA JV, 11-21, 12-21.

With these games, THS varsity is at 2-2, THS JV is at 1-3, and the Bucks varsity and JV are both at 0-4.

For the young Lady Bucks teams, luck and experience was not on their side as they lost all eight games in their two game days. The Lady Bucks first lost to Kagman

High School JV, 13-21, 10-21, then the varsity gave it a shot against KHS varsity but lost in three sets, 18-21, 21-17, 15-7. They then challenged Saipan International School JV but lost, 11-21, 9-21, and lost to their varsity team as well, 18-21, 10-21.

In their second day of games, the Bucks JV lost to Mount Carmel School JV, 13-21, 4-21, and lost to their varsity team, 11-21, 21-17, 16-18. They then lost to ACS JV, 13-21, 14-21, and lost to their varsity team 15-21, 23-25.

Lady Stallions assistant coach Brandon Jay Santos was interviewed in between their Saturday games and said that games "so far, [has] been a pretty interesting experience—exciting for sure. Our girls were definitely a little bit nervous in the beginning... but I think everything's going pretty well. They've shaken off their nerves and they're just playing to the best of their ability."

When asked about the varsity team's performance, he said "they definitely started off a little bit slow. Some of

their weaknesses in the beginning were a little less communication and not calling their own ball. But as time went on, and they started getting more comfortable on the court, communication was coming back online, as well as being able to receive the opponent's spikes and just having strong overall defense and offense on the floor. And I think that's what set our team on the road to success."

In regards to the junior varsity team, he said "I'm definitely very proud of the JV team. Coming here with their first games yesterday, they were definitely very nervous. A lot of them it's just their first time playing competitively for volleyball. So, seeing this, how they were able to shake off their nerves as well, just makes me feel proud that they're able to learn and adapt on the court."

He added that the "girls, from their opinions, they said that MHS was definitely a strong team to challenge so in that sense, I guess it would be MHS."

He was then asked how they

will prepare for the continuation of the tournament when they come back in October and he said "definitely going to look at some of the weaknesses that can be worked on the court, as well as focus on building the strengths that we already have. Now that the girls have experienced challenging the other teams, they can now see what they need to work on more in terms of offense and defense."

When one of the coaches for the Lady Bucks, Shanelle Manglona, was interviewed and she said about the teams that "for the most part, a lot of them are new players. We only have five seniors. They are doing well—they're just trying to feel out what it's like to play with other people... I think we need to practice more of our defense. And even like our serving and receiving the balls, maybe just work on boosting their confidence because I feel like they're not playing like

how they were playing when we're practicing—they're probably nervous."

She added that "this time, we were lucky because usually they will just allow us one team with like 15 players maybe, but this time we were able to bring two teams, so it's pretty good, so a lot of them are going to experience it."

The varsity Lady Stallions include Isa Reyes, Anissa Dela Cruz, Leirha Manalo, Clarize Rodriguez, Abby Ong, Julia Medicielo, Ferna Pelaez, Karris Ong, and Mary Gomez. The JV team include Carrika San Nicolas, Kyra Adriano, Bernadette Fleming, Quinani Cruz, Mary Grace Calacsan, Richie Lagunay, Sophia Su, Dennise Miguel, Isa Dosalua, Kaeleah King, Keyanie Ariola, Katie Dela Cruz, and Angelica Reyes.

The Lady Bucks varsity include Kate Manglona, Hanna Ogo, Ellie Ogo, Freska Man-

glona, Wynette Ogo, Kayponie Mendiola, Shaniyah Cabrera, Jasmine Sablan, Denicia Lizama, and Fervelyn Luis. The JV team include Eileen Pinaula, Takara Santos, Tolia Quitugua, Rheyical Castillo, Kahra Songsong, Jermaine Chloe Yalung, Flo'ree Maratita, and Resolanda Mae Patricio.

In the varsity standings, GCA is still on top and undefeated with five wins, MCS went up 4-1, MHS and ACS are both at 3-2, SIS is at 3-1, KHS is at 1-3, and SSHS is at the bottom with a 0-5 record.

In the junior varsity standings, GCA JV is at 5-1, MHS 9 and MHS JV are tied 4-1, SSHS JV and ACS JV are at 3-2, SIS JV is at 2-3, KHS JV and MCS JV are at 2-4.

The Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 is being held with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

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ment such as a yoga ball, yoga mat, yoga block, jump rope, and resistance bands were given away. A snorkel setup and swimming goggles were given away as well.

"For our next IDUS celebration, we anticipate adding another sport. We are hopeful that the added variety of physical activities will engage a broader group of the community," they said.

"We thank everyone who has attended our third IDUS event and we would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for the endless support of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, Saipan Ultimate Frisbee, and Northern Marianas College's Volleyball Club. This event was made possible by FISU Oceania who provided funding and the Northern Marianas Sports Association who granted use of the venue," added NMICS.

The celebration doesn't end

there as the Let's Walk Oceania walking challenge is still ongoing and will end on Sept. 30. There are still more prize opportunities for those who join Team Marianas.

If you are interested in joining the Let's Walk Oceania challenge, visit their social media accounts.

To stay up to date with future events and activities, please follow their social media accounts on Facebook: Northern Mariana Islands College Sports, and Instagram: nmi_collegesports.

M2

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ally nice to see not just a Zumba class, but a Zumba class with the same shirt uniform."

He added that "I feel that sport is really one of the best things that we all can do as residents in the Commonwealth to be healthier. I'm sure you're doing it for the same reason. So, to see Zumba not only this class, actually, I see different Zumba classes. And I'm really glad that everyone is exerting effort and consistently showing up. And then also, I guess it's growing. So, I want to congratulate all of you for doing this on a regular basis and

consistent basis. I just want to say keep it up.

He then looked around the complex and said, "we built this facility to promote this... I'm not sure who's playing but as long as it's being used. I'm happy, right? Badminton, soccer, basketball, doesn't matter what it is, as long as we are out here, exercising, and sweating. So, I want to congratulate all of you and just ask all of you to keep it up. This is really, really good work. And I'm really, really happy. I'm sure you guys worked hard to raise the money... But we're grateful and keep it up."

Bautista then handed the check to Tan and Tolentino and said, "this amount was

raised not only by the committee of M2 Fitness but by these people that you see in front of you, they're the reason why we're able to... fund the donation to TSL Foundation and NMI Museum. Thank you so much. This is just a small amount that we can give back and in return from the M2 Fitness family."

Last month, M2 Fitness celebrated its second anniversary with two Filipino dancer/actors, Wowie De Guzman and Joshua Zamora, who both led the M2 Zumba group during their Zumba routine at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom, with the proceeds of the event benefiting the NMI Museum and the TSL Foundation.



Brissett, Browns rebound from collapse, beat Steelers, 29-17
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20 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tinian and Rota HS grace Saipan v-ball courts



LEIGH GASES

The Tinian High School Lady Stallions varsity team pose for a photo before their game against Agape Christian School in the Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The Tinian Sr. High School Lady Stallions and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Sr. High School Lady Bucks graced the Agape Gym and the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Friday and Saturday for the continuation of the Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023.



Over the course of the two days, the Stallions' varsity team and junior varsity team, together with the Bucks' varsity and junior varsity team, played four back-to-back games each.

The Stallions' varsity team managed to bring home two wins and their junior varsity came out with one win, while the young Bucks exerted great effort during their games, but it wasn't enough to triumph



LEIGH GASES

The Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Sr. High School Lady Bucks varsity and junior varsity teams pose for a photo before the junior varsity game against Agape Christian School in the Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

over their more seasoned opponents.

On their first day of matches on Friday at the Agape Gym, the Tinian JV first faced off with the MHS JV team, but lost in two sets, 7-21, 16-21. The varsity team avenged their younger sisters with a win against the Lady Dolphin's varsity team in three tough sets, 15-21, 21-18, 15-9.

The same thing happened when the JV Stallions fell to

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By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

M2 Fitness donates \$2K to TSL, soccer school

At a fully packed TSL sports complex last Friday night, Saipan M2 Fitness Zumba donated \$2,000 to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Saipan Soccer School.

M2 Fitness president and

Zumba Fitness coach Mary-Grace Bautista presented the check to Tan Holdings president and CEO Jerry Tan, who was joined by TSLF executive director Merlie Tolentino along with the crowd of usual



Zumba-goers.

Prior to the check presentation, Tolentino thanked the group and said, "I want to thank all of you for your donation to our Saipan Soccer School. Usually, we're the one giving donations to different

organizations but today is different. So, this is the first time a small organization like you is donating to us and we really appreciate that."

Tan then addressed the crowd and said that it was "re-

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LEIGH GASES

The M2 Fitness Zumba group poses with Tan Holdings president and CEO Jerry Tan with Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino and Zumba instructor Mary-Grace Bautista, middle, after a check worth \$2,000 was turned over to the Saipan Soccer School at the TSL Sports Complex last Friday.

70 participate in Int'l Day of University Sports

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Mariana Islands College Sports hosted their third International Day of University Sports event last Tuesday, with about 70 participants at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Throughout the two-hour sport-filled afternoon, soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, and volleyball were played.

"The goal was to promote an active lifestyle, get peo-

ple moving, and celebrate the love of sports together with 100 countries across the world!" said NMICS through an email interview.

Raffle prizes were given as well and prizes included Yeti Bottles, sports equipment such as soccer balls, volleyballs, footballs, frisbees, basketballs, and baseball gloves with a baseball and softball.

Along with sports equipment, some exercise equip-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Naosuke Enomoto holds his baby while playing Ultimate Frisbee during last Tuesday's celebration of International Day of University Sports at the Oleai Sports Complex.